

For Immediate Release

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**AMY SEIWERT'S IMAGERY PRESENTS ITS 12TH ANNUAL SKETCH SERIES
SKETCH 12: DEAR DIARY**

*Featuring three world premieres and introducing
new Artistic Fellow Natasha Adorlee and Choreographer Joshua L. Peugh*

*July 15 and 16
Cowell Theater: Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture*



Amy Seiwert's Imagery Dancer Joseph A. Hernandez; Photo credit: David DeSilva

SAN FRANCISCO, April 1, 2022 – **Amy Seiwert's Imagery (ASI)**, a contemporary ballet company is proud to **present the twelfth annual SKETCH series**, entitled **SKETCH 12: Dear Diary**, July 15 and 16 at the **Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture**.

Featuring world premieres by **Artistic Director Amy Seiwert, Imagery's new Artistic Fellow Natasha Adorlee** and **Choreographer Joshua L. Peugh**, whose work is **being shown to Bay Area audiences for the first time**. Each work will explore themes of nostalgia and examine new and better ways of making ballet.

Artistic Director Amy Seiwert says of this year's SKETCH series, "Pop culture is drawn again and again to moments from the past. The Greek root of nostalgia loosely translates as an ache to return home. This practice of returning to the past was heightened during the

pandemic, as nostalgia became an ‘emotional pacifier.’* It pulled us collectively back to the time before the virus, to a world that we understood, that felt safe, possibly to a moment we felt loved. However, the perils of nostalgia as a coping mechanism include avoiding the future and missing the opportunities for change from a crisis. ‘Dear Diary’ invites the choreographers to explore both sides of this emotion.”

**New York Times, July 28, 2020*

SKETCH 12: Dear Diary

July 15-16, Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture

All performances at 7:30 pm

Three new works choreographed by Artistic Director Amy Seiwert, Imagery’s new Artistic Fellow Natasha Adorlee, and Choreographer Joshua L. Peugh.

- *SKETCH 12: Dear Diary* will challenge the choreographers and eight collaborating dance artists to create new works that explore themes of nostalgia while participating in a critique group or “crit group,” a creative feedback process rarely seen in ballet settings.
- World premiere by Natasha Adorlee, a first-generation Asian American, who was chosen to be Amy Seiwert’s Imagery’s second Artistic Fellow (2022-23). Selected for the integrity of her work, multidisciplinary talents, and desire to experiment with new technology, Adorlee’s dynamic choreographic style is ballet-based, fused with martial arts, modern, and contemporary techniques. Adorlee is a former dancer with ODC/Dance, Robert Moses’ Kin and a guest artist with Kate Weare Company (New York). In 2018, Adorlee received a Regional Emmy for her performance and music composition work in the TV special “Baseballet: Into the Game.” In addition, Natasha was selected to create the original song “Pink and Purple” for the Pixar Sparkshort “Out,” which was shortlisted for the Oscars in 2021.
- World premiere by Joshua L. Peugh, a choreographer based in New Mexico and Founder/Artistic Director of Dark Circles Contemporary Dance (Las Cruces, NM). Peugh has a unique movement style that he utilizes to share untold stories; exploring his personal experiences as an individual who identifies as LGBTQIA. This is Peugh’s first commission for a Bay Area dance company and the first time that his work is being shown to San Francisco audiences. Peugh has created 40+ works on notable contemporary companies like BODYTRAFFIC, BalletX, and Whim W’Him.
- World premiere by Artistic Director Amy Seiwert (see full bio below).

Dancers performing in *SKETCH 12: Dear Diary* include: Brandon Alexander (Smuin Ballet), Anthony Cannarella (Sacramento Ballet), Matisse D'Aloisio (Sacramento Ballet), Joseph A. Hernandez (ODC/Dance, Opera Parallele), Jenna Marie (Ballet Hispanico, Ailey II), Kelsey McFalls (Company C, Amy Seiwert's Imagery), Isabella Velasquez (Sacramento Ballet), and Isaac Bates Vinueza (Sacramento Ballet).

Costumes by Susan Roemer and lighting design by Brian Jones. Roemer and Jones were awarded an Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Outstanding Achievement in Visual Design for Amy Seiwert's Imagery's *SKETCH 7: Wandering*, Cowell Theater, San Francisco, 2017.

CALENDAR LISTING

Amy Seiwert's Imagery presents the twelfth year of its SKETCH series, featuring new ballets by Amy Seiwert, Natasha Adorlee and Joshua L. Peugh

WHO: Amy Seiwert's Imagery, the San Francisco-based contemporary ballet company

WHAT: *SKETCH 12: Dear Diary* featuring new ballets from Artistic Director Amy Seiwert, Natasha Adorlee (ODC/Dance, Robert Moses KIN) and Joshua L. Peugh (Founder, Artistic Director of Dark Circles Contemporary Dance, Las Cruces, NM)

WHEN: Friday, July 15 and Saturday, July 16, 7:30pm

WHERE: Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture, 2 Marina Blvd at Buchanan, San Francisco

TICKETS: \$22-\$55

For more information call the Cowell Theater box office at 415-345-7575 or visit <https://www.asimagery.org>

About Amy Seiwert and Amy Seiwert's Imagery

Amy Seiwert is a Bay Area choreographer who approaches contemporary ballet from a classical base. Seiwert enjoyed a nineteen-year performance career dancing with the Smuin, LA Chamber, and Sacramento Ballets before beginning her career as a choreographer. Seiwert has been named one of "25 to Watch" by Dance Magazine, and her first full evening of choreography was named one of the "Top 10" dance events by the SF Chronicle. She was an Artist in Residence at ODC Theater from 2013 to 2015 and the first National Artist in Residence with the Joyce Theater in 2017. Seiwert's choreography is in the repertoires of Ballet Austin, BalletMet, Smuin, Washington,

Atlanta, Oakland, Sacramento, Colorado, Louisville, Cincinnati, Carolina, Oklahoma City, Dayton, Milwaukee, and American Repertory Ballets, as well as Robert Moses' KIN. Seiwert is the Artistic Director of Amy Seiwert's Imagery and has held outside roles as a choreographer in Residence at Smuin Ballet (2008-2018) and the Artistic Director of Sacramento Ballet (2018-2020).

Amy Seiwert's Imagery (ASI), a contemporary ballet company based in San Francisco, expands the definition of ballet by exploding the preconceptions of what ballet is and can be. ASI drives ballet's evolution by nurturing safe environments for creative risk-taking, partnering with diverse collaborators, and mentoring emerging leaders in the field. ASI's artists share the belief that through collaboration and experimentation, vibrant and courageous ideas can become inspiring works of art.

About The SKETCH Series

The SKETCH series began the summer of 2011 with SKETCH: New Works. Performed at Z Space, SKETCH brought together four choreographers and eight dancers in an incredibly intense but amazingly fertile environment. SKETCH has offered world premieres created by acclaimed choreographers Julia Adam, Jennifer Archibald, Marc Brew, Val Caniparoli, Nicole Haskins, Adam Houglan, Gabriella Lamb, Stephanie Martinez, Ben Needham-Wood, Matthew Neenan, KT Nelson, Gina Patterson, Susan Roemer, and Seiwert. To date, SKETCH has presented 24 world premieres by 14 choreographers, performed by 36 dancers to more than 5,100 audience members.

With a mission to foster innovation in ballet-based choreography, The SKETCH series explores new challenges that push the choreographers and dancers out of their comfort zones and into the frontier of innovation in contemporary ballet. The performances take place in intimate theaters and works-in-progress showings with moderated Q&As occurring throughout the process. Seiwert consciously commissions works by women, dance makers with disabilities, and choreographers of color. The dancers chosen for this series are incredibly open and generous collaborators, highly invested in the creative process. It is Imagery's hope that by fostering environments that allow choreographers to take chances, we can do our part to further innovation in our art form.

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