

SPRINGWORKS

APRIL 25-27

OPUS.11

Choreography and Lighting Design by David Dawson

Music by Greg Haines

Costume Design by Yumiko Takeshima

Assistant to the Choreographer: Raphaël Coumes-Marquet

World Premiere: Semperoper Ballett, 2013

**This performance of *Opus.11* was underwritten for Charlotte Ballet
by Kari and Jonathan Halkyard in honor of Beverly M. Johnston.**

April 25, 27

Alessandra Ball James & Josh Hall

April 26, 27(M)

Sarah Hayes Harkins & Ben Ingel

PROGRAM NOTES

"*OPUS.11* is a love letter to two artists whom I have had the privilege of knowing and working with the most during my choreographic life. Together, we have experienced a connection that for me cannot ever be matched. Both share a special and natural talent that goes far beyond technique, partnered by an ability to use their bodies intelligently thus becoming instruments of the purest physical emotion. Making music become a truly visible presence. We have shared a deep love for our art form since we first met, hungry to learn and constantly questioning our beliefs and knowledge and to try and discover new ways to move within classical technique. I would not have been able to have had the experience of existing in a little corner of heaven while creating them. Yumiko Takeshima and Raphaël Coumes-Marquet - I thank you." - Choreographer, David Dawson

SPRINGWORKS

APRIL 25-27

IN COGNITO

Choreography & Concept by Helen Pickett

Music: Excerpts from Jóhann Jóhannsson, Mikael Karlsson and Joshua Rubin

Costume Design by Charles Heightchew

Lighting Design by Les Dickert

World Premiere: Charlotte Ballet, 2019

***IN Cognito* was commissioned for
Charlotte Ballet by Lise and Travis Hain.**

April 25, 27

Raven Barkley & Colby Foss
Elizabeth Truell & Maurice Mouzon Jr.
Chelsea Dumas & Ben Ingel
Sarah Hayes Harkins & James Kopecky
Juwan Alston
Featuring: Special Guest Robert Plant

April 26, 27(M)

Amelia Sturt-Dilley & Anson Zwingleberg
Shaina Wire & Peter Mazurowski
Sarah Lapointe & Josh Hall
Alessandra Ball James & Drew Grant
David Preciado
Featuring: Special Guest Robert Plant

PROGRAM NOTES

"...To perform without a net is ecstasy." "... To perform without focus is fatal." - Tom Robbins, *Villa Incognito*

"The extraordinary writer Tom Robbins, a native of Blowing Rock, NC, and I have shared a pen pal relationship since 2014. Because the breadth of his writing and his indomitable spirit have greatly influenced my life, in general, I wrote him to ask if I could call my new ballet *IN Cognito*, a title inspired by his novel, *Villa Incognito*. He said yes. It is not the actual theme of that particular book that helped to inspire my ballet, but the recurring leitmotif of being incognito within all of his books.

As performers, we transform ourselves, assume identities, and at the same time, quite liberatingly, we show our very souls. We accept this equivocality as our reality, and this acceptance has always intrigued me. Are we hiding in plain sight? Are we searching for the place to strip ourselves of artifice so we may celebrate, and not hide at all? Do we flourish and even delight in the ambiguity of our artistic lives because of our resolute focus? These questions, and perhaps the answers, weave throughout *IN Cognito*. "Transformation, liberation and celebration are the themes in all of my novels." Tom Robbins

The 60's and 70's costuming and décor serve to create a space to be incognito *IN Cognito*. I find the bright colors of these decades quite celebratory, almost performative. The set/furniture both delineates and continually transforms the space. The unified idea of the costumes, by the brilliant Charles Heightchew, forms a central identity, and at the same time reveals undeniable individuality. The light design, by the incomparable Les Dickert, shapes the mood and the interstices of the room.

The driving nature of the music by late Oscar nominated Jóhan Jóhannsson and Mikael Karlsson, which is at times whimsical, passionate, methodical or ominous, inspires and informs the nature of the choreography.

This ballet is dedicated to Tom Robbins. Thank you, Switters." - Choreographer, Helen Pickett

SPRINGWORKS

APRIL 25-27

WALKING MAD

Choreography by Johan Inger

Music: "Bolero" by Maurice Ravel and "Für Alina" by Arvo Pärt

Assistant to the Choreographer: Carl Inger

Décor and Costumes by Johan Inger

Lighting by Erik Berglund

World premiere: Nederlands Dans Theater, 2001

**This performance of *Walking Mad* was underwritten for Charlotte Ballet
by Shannon G. Smith and Daniela Sebova.**

Elizabeth Truell Sarah Hayes Harkins Chelsea Dumas
Colby Foss James Kopecky Anson Zwingelberg
Maurice Mouzon Jr. Ben Ingel Peter Mazurowski

PROGRAM NOTES

"The famous Boléro from Ravel with its sexual, almost kitschy history was the trigger point to make my own version. I quickly decided that it was going to be about relationships in different forms and circumstances. I came up with the idea of a wall that could transform the space during this minimalistic music and create small pockets of space and situations. *Walking Mad* is a journey in which we encounter our fears, our longings and the lightness of being." - Choreographer, Johan Inger

Family Matinee Presented by:

THE
LEON
LEVINE
FOUNDATION