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**Performance Advisory**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 1, 2024**

WHO: Eugene Ballet

WHAT: *Gatsby* with Orchestra Next’s Jazz Ensemble + Suzanne Haag’s World Premiere *Portrait in Glass*

WHEN: Friday, February 9 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, February 10 at 2:00 pm

WHERE: Silva Concert Hall, Hult Center for the Performing Arts, Eugene, OR

COST: $25 – $65, $15 youth and college tickets with student ID

MORE INFO: <https://eugeneballet.org/performances/gatsby/>

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**Eugene Ballet Opens 2024 with Two Experiences of the American Dream**

Eugene Ballet’s 2023/2024 season continues with Artistic Director Toni Pimble’s *Gatsby* with Orchestra Next’s Jazz Ensemble and a world premiere of Resident Choreographer Suzanne Haag’s *Portrait in Glass,* on the Hult Center Silva Concert Hall stage in two performances only, Friday, February 9 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, February 10 at 2:00 pm.

Pimble’s *Gatsby* is a rollicking ride back to the glamorous 1920s, with lavish parties, gorgeous costumes, and all the glitz of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s great American novel *The Great Gatsby*. “[*Gatsby*] pulses like a pot on simmer, that slowly comes to a rolling boil, heating up with intrigue and the omnipresent humidity of an inescapable (pre air conditioning) New York summer.” (*Eugene Weekly*, 2016) Local jazz fans will recognize some of their favorite players in Orchestra Next’s ensemble, including renowned trumpeters Tony Glausi and Mark Gould.

Brian McWhorter will again lead Orchestra Next’s Jazz Ensemble with a contagious exuberance as they play the thoughfully arranged set of Wynton Marsalis’ jazz scores. “When we [Pimble and McWhorter] heard Wynton’s music, we knew we had it,” explained McWhorter. “His music is deeply rooted in the tradition while sounding incredibly modern. While his music wasn’t originally intended for a narrative structure, Wynton like the idea and was excited that we wanted to use it for this story.”

Eugene Ballet premiered *Gatsby* with Marsalis’ compositions in April of 2016 at the Hult Center. The cast of complex characters in this tumultuous tale of forbidden love, greed, and the corruption of the American Dream tell their story in five locations—from New York homes to beach fronts to a garage—including from the drivers seat of a 1929 Mercedez Benz replica on stage. Dancing the lead character roles for this production are Principal Dancers Mark Tucker as Jay Gatsby, Reed Souther as Tom Buchanan, and Danielle Tolmie as Myrtle Wilson, with Company Dancers Hayley Tavonatti as Daisy Buchanan, Ethan Boresow as Nick Carraway, Jade McAnally as Jordan Baker, and Dave Naquin as George Wilson.

Haag’s *Portrait in Glass*, opening both Friday and Saturday shows, is inspired by Tennessee Williams’ play *The Glass Menagerie* and his short story *Portrait of a Girl in Glass*. “This ballet is truly a picture of a family,” Haag said, “the intense love, tension, and heartbreak that we have all experienced, reflected onto one family.”

“The reason I wanted to turn the play into a ballet was because it is such a human work. The characters are extreme, but their relationships with each other are so relatable,” Haag continued. Her choreography not only involves the four family members and portrayals of their memories, but also the various props and set pieces that help to tell the story. Large glass animals, typewriters, a fire escape and more resulted in “choreographing for both dancers and inanimate objects,” Haag added. Learn more about this world premiere [HERE](https://eugeneballet.org/portrait-in-glass/).

*These perfomances are recommended for ages 12+ due to adult themes.* Tickets—always priced from $25 to $65, with $15 youth and college tickets (with valid ID)—are on sale now at <https://eugeneballet.org/performances/gatsby/> at the Hult Center Ticket Office in person and by phone at 541-682-5000.

**MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES**

Visit [HERE](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/6m0vv87mpyzfevq6dcu4w/h?rlkey=5fm5xta77n13ypzi3l5yzxcsg&dl=0) for media kit (photos and video). Contact Katie Patrick or Josh Neckels for on site media opportunities during production week, Tuesday, February 6 though Saturday, February 10 at the Hult Center.

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