

ARC DANCE

MARIE CHONG, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release

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ARC Dance Company honors the late Kabby Mitchell III with the addition of *Que!* to the *Autumn 47* program.

SEATTLE, WA – August 31, 2017 – Artistic Director Marie Chong has added two additional dance works to the *Autumn 47* mixed rep program in October. ARC Dance will celebrate the life of Kabby Mitchell III by performing *Que!*, which Mr. Mitchell choreographed for ARC Dance in 1999. *Something Fun* by Marie Chong will also be included on the program, in addition to the World Premiere pieces by choreographers David Fernandez and Alex Ketley and two re-imagined works by locally renowned choreographers Gérard Théorêt and Wade Madsen.

“It is fitting that ARC Dance Company pays tribute to Kabby Mitchell III by performing the piece he choreographed for ARC when it was newly formed in 1999,” remarked Artistic Director Marie Chong. “Kabby was a role model and mentor during my early career, as well as a supporter of ARC Dance so I wanted to honor his memory by performing his work. Additionally, I have added a technically spectacular contemporary male solo that I choreographed in 2010 to round out the program.”

ARC Dance Company 2017 Performance Schedule of *Autumn 47*

October 12 – 7:30pm

October 13 – 8:00pm

October 14 – 8:00pm

October 15 – 4:00pm (matinee)

All public performances will be held at ARC Dance Company’s intimate performance space located at 9250 14th Ave NW Seattle, WA 98117.

Pre-show Special

Early-bird purchasers can buy tickets at a special \$27.00 price through September 30th. Because space is limited, we highly encourage making ticket purchases early. To purchase tickets visit www.arcdance.org.

Regular Priced Tickets on Sale October 1st

Tickets for performances of *Autumn 47* will be \$36.00 in advance and \$45.00 at the door. To purchase tickets visit www.arcdance.org.

About Alex Ketley

Alex Ketley is an independent choreographer and filmmaker as well as current Artistic Director and co-founder of The Foundry, a dance company in San Francisco. Mr. Ketley has been commissioned to create original pieces for companies and universities throughout the United States and Europe. His work has received acknowledgement from the Hubbard Street National Choreographic Competition, the Isadora Duncan Awards and the National Eben Demarest Award among others. Mr. Ketley also serves as a Resident Choreographer at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance. www.alexketley.squarespace.com

Alex Ketley is hyperconscious of the subtle secrets our bodies both hide and reveal...

– Examiner.com June 2010

About David Fernandez

David Fernandez is a choreographer, dancer, and ballet teacher based in New York. His most acclaimed choreography, entitled "Five Variations on a Theme," was created for New York City Ballet's principal dancer Joaquin De Luz. The work was performed as part of the "Kings of the Dance" program, premiering in the Ukraine in November 2008. Mr. Fernandez's other choreographies have been created for leading dancers from the American Ballet Theatre and the New York City Ballet. When David isn't choreographing or searching for new music and sources of inspiration, he teaches and experiments with new movements at the Central Park Dance studios, the Long Island Ballet Theatre School at the Huntington Center for the Arts, and at Westport's Academy of Ballet in Connecticut.

www.davidferndance.com

About Gérard Théorêt

Following a successful career as a soloist with Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Mr. Théorêt transitioned to acting. He is a graduate of The Drama Studio in London and has performed extensively as an actor, singer, and dancer for film and stage, including multiple seasons at the Stratford Festival (Canada). Mr. Théorêt was resident Artistic Director for Livent's production of Phantom of the Opera for seven years. He was a Full Professor at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle prior to accepting the Artistic Director position of Cirque du Soleil's show *Corteo* in 2007. In 2010, after touring in the U.S.A., Canada, and a fifteen-month run in Japan he transitioned to being an Artist in Cirque's show *Saltimbanco*, playing the principal character role of The Baron until the show was retired at the end of 2012. He works internationally as a performer, coach, teacher, choreographer and director for theatre, musical theatre, opera, and circus. *Recurring* is his third dance created for ARC.

About Wade Madsen

Wade Madsen is originally from Albuquerque, NM. He has spent the last 40 years in Seattle. Mr. Madsen has been producing, performing, directing, and choreographing his own work in Seattle since 1979. He has over 150 works ranging from three-minute dances to full evening theater pieces. His choreography has been commissioned by Spectrum Dance Theater, Co-Motion Dance Company, D-9, Danceworks Northwest, New Orleans Dance Theater, Riverside Community College, Bellevue College, Baton Rouge Dance, and Bellingham Dance Gallery. Mr. Madsen has also choreographed for various films and commercials made in Seattle. He is a professor at Cornish College of the Arts, while continuing to teach around the Seattle area. *Black and White* was Mr. Madsen's first work for ARC Dance premiering in 2001. www.wademadsen.com

About Marie Chong

Marie Chong is an accomplished dancer, director, teacher, and choreographer and has worked in parts of Europe, Asia, Canada, and the US. She was a professional dancer in both classical ballet and contemporary dance with companies such as Pacific Northwest Ballet, Eugene Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, and Spectrum Dance Theater. Ms. Chong founded ARC Dance Productions in Seattle in 1999 and opened ARC School of Ballet in 2004. She was the Artistic Director of Cirque du Soleil's big top touring show

KOOZA in Japan and the US in 2011-2012 and also integrated new artists into the show at Cirque du Soleil's headquarters in Montreal. In 2014 she began working for Walt Disney Theatricals, based in New York City.

Ms. Chong is an active director, mentor, and coach. Her choreography has been critically acclaimed and she continues to produce and create regular professional dance performances locally and abroad.

About Kabby Mitchell III

Kabby Mitchell III was a true pioneer in the Seattle dance community. He was hired during his early twenties as the first black company member of Pacific Northwest Ballet. Mr. Mitchell became a soloist and was known for his flexibility, huge leaps, and charismatic style. He danced with PNB from 1979 to 1984 before going on to perform with Nederlands Dans Theater, Dance Theater of Harlem, and other companies. Mr. Mitchell became a fixture in the Pacific Northwest as a choreographer, teacher, mentor, and role model. As a choreographer, Mr. Mitchell helped to create *Black Nativity* and he also worked with the Seattle Opera, Seattle Rep, ACT, the Bathhouse, and other local organizations. As a faculty member of Evergreen State College, Mr. Mitchell became a beloved teacher. He also donated his time to public service, sitting on panels for Washington, King County, and the Seattle Arts Commission. One of his last projects was the Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center, which opens in September and will provide world-class dance opportunities for deserving African-American and racially diverse youth. Kabby Mitchell III passed away May 4, 2017.

About ARC Dance

ARC Dance Company was founded in Seattle in 1999 under the direction of current Artistic Director Marie Chong. As one of Seattle's best regarded, mid-sized dance companies, ARC Dance Company has presented local, national, and international artists while providing opportunities for young and emerging artists. ARC Dance is committed to high production and artistic values that reflect an eclectic repertoire of dance works, promoting dance as a universal language. More information about the company and the ARC School of Ballet can be found on its website.

DETAILS: Autumn 47

What: ARC Dance Company *Autumn 47* performances

When: **October 12, 13, 14, 15, 2017**

Where: ARC Dance Space 9250 14th Ave NW Seattle, WA 98117

Website: www.arcdance.org

Tickets: **\$27.00 tickets through September 30th at www.arcdance.org**
Regular priced tickets on sale October 1st. Tickets are \$36.00 online and \$45.00 at the door.