

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photos and video available on request



### Arch Contemporary Ballet is Beaming with Innovation at the Sheen Center

Rising female pointe choreographer shines a light on ballet to 21<sup>st</sup> century audiences

**New York City, June 24, 2016-** [Arch Contemporary Ballet](#), creates new audiences for dance for their upcoming world premiere ballets performing Friday, August 11th – Sunday, August 13th at 8:00 pm and 2:00 pm at the **Sheen Center**. Their mission to excite a 21<sup>st</sup> century audience with new ballet, new music, and new ideas culminates in two programs of triple bills featuring two world premieres and two celebrated works choreographed by Artistic Director **Sheena Annalise**.

‘Replica’ opens the evening to illustrate how we live in a culture where anything can be replicated or reproduced and explores the value of an original object. A 3D motion capture backdrop in real-time creates a 4D optical illusion on stage and is complimented by 3D printed costumes designed by **Merve Oztemel**. The striking choreography is experimental manufactured by sharp intricate body lines danced to a pulsing original EDM score by **Matthew AC Cohen**.

In contrast, a wildly romantic pas de deux 'Hues of Memory' transports the audience to lush landscapes galvanized by romantic memory. American Sign Language is seamlessly integrated into the movement revealing a poem by world renowned photographer **Luis Pons**. Violinist **Isabel Epstein** sets the temperature of the work with a violin improvised score and is displayed visually for the hearing impaired with synced lighting technology to the vibrations of the instruments. The theatre space is encapsulated with a greenery maze, setting the backdrop for this madly passionate story.

The world premiere finale of ‘Pointe in Motion’ explores the impact music can play in advances for neuroscience. A slow motion ink in water backdrop emulates the fluidity of thought between different lobes of the brain while the dancers use **Point Motion** technology to create the music with their bodies live on stage. Their serpentine movement is traced by sensors seamlessly placed throughout the stage creating a mix of silence and sound. Music’s therapeutic ability to have a profound impact on behavior, problem solving, concentration, interpreting language, and communication is explored.

The matinee performances will premiere ‘Driftless Fraction’, a self analysis of our personality’s uncontrollable tendency to change when we are alone or around different people in our lives. This work is the result of Arch Contemporary Ballet’s National Summer Intensive for Dance & Composition at New York City Center – this world premiere performance showcases the dancers of this workshop and a world premiere composition by composers of the program.

There will be an autism friendly modified performance on Aug 12<sup>th</sup> at 2pm as part of ACB’s Arch for Autism Initiative.

### PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup> 8:00 pm

Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm//8:00 pm

Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm//8:00 pm

Advanced general admission tickets are \$25, VIP tickets are \$35. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.archballet.com](http://www.archballet.com).

### DIRECTIONS

The Sheen Center is located at 18 Bleecker Street, between Mott and Elizabeth Street in Manhattan and is accessible by Subway 4, 6 at Bleecker Street and B, D, F, M at Broadway/Lafayette.

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## **ABOUT ARCH CONTEMPORARY BALLET**

Founded in 2013, New York City's Arch Contemporary Ballet was established with a bold spirit and innovative vision to create an artistic process that enhances the connection between ballet and music. All of ACB's works are choreographed and completed in silence. Commissioned artists then create original music scores specifically for each repertoire program. In addition to her innovative way of joining movement and music, Artistic Director and choreographer, Sheena Annalise, challenges classicism with a cutting-edge approach to partnering, pairing women on pointe together as partners. ACB has performed across the country including the Paramount Theatre in Boston, Tempe Center for the Arts in Tempe, AZ, Marlene Boll Theatre in Detroit, New York City's Sheen Center, and more. Learn more at [www.ArchBallet.com](http://www.ArchBallet.com).

## **SHEENA ANNALISE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Artistic Director and choreographer, Sheena Annalise, at age 14, was honored to work with Wayne McGregor | Random Dance in "Equator Project", nurturing her choreographic talent. She quickly found a distinct voice by creating innovative body lines and exploring her fascination with the connection between movement and music. In her early work she began to play with creating her own tempos, accents, and pauses in her ballets without the limitations of existing music. Looking to accentuate her silent yet rhythmic choreography, she developed her artistic process of commissioning artists to create music specifically to each repertoire program. Annalise spent 2012 mentoring with the Mark Morris Dance Group, when she then founded Arch Contemporary Ballet the following year. Through ACB she has received residencies and space grants throughout NYC and has been named a "Prodigy" by The Women's Project.

## **ARCH FOR AUTISM**

[Arch for Autism](#) is an initiative for families and friends with children or adults who are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder or other sensitivity issues to come together and enjoy the benefits of dance and music. Our goal is to make ballet and music accessible to all by including Autism Friendly performances during our performance season... Adjustments to the production include reduction of obscure lighting, shorter running time, and reduction of any sudden sounds. Plus, there will be areas in the lobby for quiet time or activities staffed with autism specialists for those who need to leave their seats during the performance.

## **MATTHEW A.C. COHEN**

Matthew A.C. Cohen has composed and performed around the globe and is a Remi Platinum Award winner for the short film "@Social #Connection". He attended Hofstra University, where he got a B.S. in Music Theory/Composition, with special interests in Film Scoring, Jazz Improvisation and arranging, and orchestration, and went on to get an MFA in Scoring for Media from Columbia College Chicago. He writes for network television shows, including "Reign" and "Vikings", studio films including "Brick Mansions", "The Funhouse Massacre", and "Christmas Land", and triple A video game titles including "Dragon Age: Inquisition". He is a versatile and inventive musician and composer.

## **MAKE MODE**

[Make Mode](#) is a creative 3d printing studio and 3d printing service based in Brooklyn, NY specializing in demanding and time-sensitive custom projects. Besides functioning as a micro-factory for NYC's creative ecosystem, Make Mode also offers classes on 3d printing and workshops on design for 3d printing.

## **MERVE OZTEMEL**

[Merve Oztemel](#) is an Istanbul native; she pursued Textile and Fashion Design at Marmara University Faculty of Fine Arts. Her brand Merve Oztemel is based on the technique of blending craftsmanship with digital technology. Her views of 3D technology and the integration into everyday life have been noted to be "ahead of the curve", and she implies that 3D technology is the future to creating a unique result in the material world.

## **POINT MOTION**

[Point Motion](#) is the perfect platform to ensure your clients have 24/7 access to guided Music Therapy enrichment. Users can engage in musically stimulating experiences through the computer, tablet, or mobile device they already own. Stay up to date on progress and musical interests through our dynamic Data Tracker which shows range of motion, reaction time, and other motor & cognitive engagements. A revolution in music therapy.