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[Press Room](#)



Images of the Scottish Ballet are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS THE
SCOTTISH BALLET
IN THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS'
A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE
MAY 10-12, 2017**

***A Page & Stage* book club event will take place in conjunction with the performances on
May 11**

Berkeley, April 4, 2017 — Cal Performances concludes its diverse season of dance performances with the West Coast premiere of **Scottish Ballet's** award-winning production of [*A Streetcar Named Desire*](#), Wednesday–Friday, May 10-12 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall. Based on Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize-winning play—which celebrates its 70th anniversary this year—the ballet is a collaboration between theater and film director **Nancy Meckler** and choreographer **Annabelle**

Lopez Ochoa, with a jazz score commissioned from **Peter Salem**. These performances mark Scottish Ballet's first visit to the West Coast in six years.

In Tennessee Williams' Southern Gothic melodrama, fading southern belle Blanche DuBois moves into her sister Stella's New Orleans apartment, trying to leave behind her troubled past. Stella's brutish husband Stanley senses that Blanche is not what she appears to be, and sets out to destroy her. Director Meckler and choreographer Lopez Ochoa offer a unique take on the classic tale, delving into Blanche's past to provide expanded context for her eventual downfall. Meckler and Lopez Ochoa's collaboration yields a dance-theater hybrid that depicts the physical desires and psychological distress of the play's characters, balancing the grace and elegance of ballet with the grit and raw emotion of Williams' play. The production premiered in 2012, and in 2013 won the Critics' Circle National Dance Award (Best Classical Choreography) and the South Bank Award for Dance in the UK.

In conjunction with the performances, a *Page & Stage* book club event will take place on Thursday, May 11 at 6pm at the Musical Offering Café in Berkeley. Dance dramaturg **Carrie Gaiser Casey** and ACT theater dramaturg **Michael Paller** will lead a conversation about the artistic choices involved in translating a literary work into the language of dance. Tickets are \$5, and include one free non-alcoholic drink.

About Scottish Ballet

Over its 48-year history, [Scottish Ballet](#) has been acclaimed for performances of a broad range of repertoire, including both classical and contemporary works—seminal pieces from the 20th-century modern ballet canon; signature dances by living choreographers; new commissions from contemporary choreographers; and story ballets re-imagined with fresh relevance for a contemporary audience. The company performs across Scotland, the UK, and abroad, with strong classical technique at the root of all of its work. Scottish Ballet's awards include the 2008 Critics' Circle Award for Outstanding Repertoire (Classical) and nominations for Outstanding Company at the Critics' Circle Awards in 2009 and 2010.

Nancy Meckler, artistic director for Shared Experience Theatre, has previously directed for the National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company, among others, on Broadway and in London's

West End. She has also directed two feature films, *Sister My Sister* and *Alive and Kicking*. **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa** is an award-winning choreographer who has created works for more than 40 dance companies, including Dutch National Ballet, the Royal Ballet of Flanders, and Joffrey Ballet.

About Cal Performances

Cal Performances is the performing arts presenter and producer of the University of California, Berkeley, fulfilling its mission by presenting, producing, and commissioning renowned and emerging artists in music, dance, and theater. Cal Performances reaches more than 150,000 people annually through concerts and campus and community events, including talks, symposia, lecture demonstrations, and academic courses based on Cal Performances' season. Under the leadership of Matías Tarnopolsky, the organization launched Berkeley RADICAL (Research and Development Initiative in Creativity Arts and Learning) to cultivate the artistic literacy of future audiences and connect some of the most innovative artists in the world with the intellectual capital of UC Berkeley. The 2016/17 season is the second season for Berkeley RADICAL, and embraces three strands of artistic exploration: *Inclusion*, *Innovation*, and *Immersion*. More information on Berkeley RADICAL can be found at calperformances.org/berkeley-radical.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Wednesday–Friday, May 10-12 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$36–\$105 (prices subject to change). Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at [\(510\) 642-9988](tel:5106429988), at calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Wednesday, May 10 at 8pm
Thursday, May 11 at 8pm
Friday, May 12 at 8pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley campus

Dance

A Streetcar Named Desire

Scottish Ballet

Nancy Meckler, *director*

Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, *choreographer*

Niki Turner, *design*

Peter Salem, *music*

Program: Scottish Ballet presents the West Coast premiere of its award-winning take on Tennessee Williams' masterpiece, drawing audiences into the darkly alluring and tragic world of Blanche DuBois, her sister Stella, and her brutish brother-in-law Stanley. Scotland's national dance company is known for rigorous and refined classical technique and vibrant productions of story ballets. "An expertly chosen play turned brilliantly into dance" (*The Telegraph*, London).

Tickets: \$36–\$105 (prices subject to change).

Scottish Ballet Residency Activities

Page & Stage: A Streetcar Named Desire

Thursday, May 11, 6pm

With Carrie Gaiser Casey and Michael Paller

Rob Bailis, *moderator*

The Musical Offering Café

2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley

Program: Dance dramaturg Carrie Gaiser Casey and ACT theater dramaturg Michael Paller will lead a discussion about the artistic choices involved in translating a literary work into the language of ballet, in particular the Scottish Ballet's award-winning adaptation of Tennessee Williams' American classic. Moderated by Cal Performances associate director Rob Bailis.

Tickets: *Page & Stage: A Streetcar Named Desire* tickets are \$5 and include one complimentary non-alcoholic beverage. Tickets are available in advance through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, and at calperformances.org, and on the evening of the event at the Will Call office across Bancroft Way at Zellerbach Hall, pending availability.