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[Press Room](#)



Images of Pavel Zuštiak and Palissimo Company are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS  
PAVEL ZUŠTIAK AND PALISSIMO COMPANY  
IN THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF  
*CUSTODIANS OF BEAUTY*  
FRIDAY–SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7–9**

**Members of the company also host a Community Dance Class on the UC Berkeley campus**

**Berkeley, October 31, 2018** — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley has invited choreographer **Pavel Zuštiak** and his acclaimed **Palissimo Company** to make their Bay Area and Cal Performances debut, performing the West Coast premiere of *Custodians of Beauty*, Friday–Sunday, December 7–9 in Zellerbach Playhouse. The non-narrative multisensory work, which premiered in 2015, invitingly combines movement with imagery, light, and sound to examine notions of beauty in our contemporary world. Zuštiak, a New York Dance and Performance (“Bessie”) Award winner and Guggenheim fellow, has been praised for creating immersive works that merge dance, live music, and the visual arts, combining these media to foreground sensory perception as part of the audience experience.

*Custodians of Beauty* takes its title from a 2009 speech given by Pope Benedict XVI, reminding artists of their responsibilities as “custodians of beauty in the world,” and challenges received cultural, artistic, and academic preconceptions about the role of beauty in contemporary life. As in Zuštiak’s previous works, the movement is characterized by abstraction, minimalism, and expressive restraint, and the work evolves as a series of shifting images. The design and music score are drawn from an Eastern European dance-theater aesthetic, continuing Palissimo’s long relationship with composer/musician **Christian Frederickson** and lighting designer **Joe Levasseur**. The running time is 90 minutes, and the work is performed without intermission.

Pavel Zuštiak is a Slovak-American, New York-based director, choreographer, and performer, born in the former communist Czechoslovakia. Since founding Palissimo Company in 2003, he has produced 10 increasingly ambitious works that have established him as a unique voice in New York’s contemporary dance world. His works for stage and public spaces merge the abstract aspects of dance with nonlinear qualities of a “theater of images,” creating multidisciplinary pieces rich in evocative imagery and piercing emotional resonance. Deeply inspired by the tradition of European dance-theater hybrids, Zuštiak’s work makes use of a variety of theatrical devices to create immersive choreographic experiences.

In conjunction with the company’s visit, a Community Dance Class taught by members of Palissimo Company is planned on Saturday, December 8 at 11am, in the Bancroft Studio on the UC Berkeley campus. The class is open to all ages and abilities. Admission is \$10, and pre-registration is required at: <https://secure.calperformances.org/auxiliary/Reserve.aspx?p=13701>

### **Ticket Information**

Tickets for *Pavel Zuštiak and Palissimo Company* on Friday–Saturday, December 7–8 at 8pm and Sunday, December 9 at 3pm in Zellerbach Playhouse are \$42 (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, at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org), and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to [calperformances.org/discounts](http://calperformances.org/discounts).

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

## CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, December 7, 8pm  
Saturday, December 8, 8pm  
Sunday, December 9, 3pm

**Zellerbach Playhouse**  
Bancroft Way at Dana Street  
UC Berkeley campus

### *Dance*

**Pavel Zuštiak and Palissimo Company**

### *Custodians of Beauty*

**Pavel Zuštiak**, concept, direction, choreography

**Christian Frederickson**, music composition and sound design

**Joe Levasseur**, lighting design

**Program:** In this multisensory work, choreographer Pavel Zuštiak and his Palissimo Company ask, “Where do we find beauty today, and does it need our defense?” Zuštiak creates an immersive visual experience in *Custodians of Beauty*, combining movement with imagery, light, and sound in response to a 2009 speech by Pope Benedict XVI, reminding artists of their responsibilities as “custodians of beauty in the world.” Through formal abstraction and restrained, minimalist gesture, Zuštiak explores the human body as sculpture, emotional trigger, and political symbol.

**Tickets:** \$42 (prices subject to change)

### Residency Activities

**Community Dance Class**

**Saturday, December 8, 11am**

**Bancroft Studio, UC Berkeley Campus**

Members of the company teach a Community Dance Class. Open to all ages and abilities.

Admission is \$10, and re-registration required at:

<https://secure.calperformances.org/auxiliary/Reserve.aspx?p=13701>