



**THE CRUCIBLE**

An Educational Collaboration of Arts • Industry • Community

[www.thecrucible.org](http://www.thecrucible.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Photos** available at <http://www.thecrucible.org/about/pressroom.html>

### THE CRUCIBLE PRESENTS **Romeo & Juliet—A Fire Ballet** January 10-13 and 17-20

From January 10 to 20, The Crucible will celebrate its 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a sizzling synthesis of dance and fire: *The Most Excellent and Lamentable Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet—A Fire Ballet*. In the dazzling tradition of The Crucible's Fire Operas, this first-ever Fire Ballet is a theatrical spectacle that fuses ballet, classical music, aerial performance, and the fire and industrial arts into a compelling modernized rendition of Shakespeare's tragic tale.

Like The Crucible's Fire Operas, the Fire Ballet creatively brings together unlikely partners in a remarkable collaboration where the whole is much more than the sum of the parts. The legendary tale of star-crossed lovers is set to the passionate and powerful score of Sergei Prokofiev. The production's musical director is Mark Jan Wlodarkiewicz, who was music editor for the 1996 Leonardo DiCaprio film version of Romeo and Juliet. The Fire Ballet is designed and produced by Crucible founder Michael Sturtz, and choreographed by Corinne Blum, who has been called one of the West Coast's most exciting, young choreographers.

Classically trained ballet dancers share the stage with fire performers, while the aerial dancers of Flyaway Productions soar in the industrial vastness of The Crucible's 56,000 square foot studio. Capulets and Montagues stage their brawls with urban dance and Capoeira in explosive fight scenes against a backdrop of flaming sculptures. Performers include an amazing cast of dancers and performers that reflects the diversity of the Bay Area's arts community, from classically trained ballet dancers to outrageous fire performers, including Flyaway Productions, Flavor Group, Wushu West, and the Crucible's blacksmiths, metal casters, and glassworkers.

Proceeds from this production help support The Crucible's art education programs. *Romeo & Juliet* runs through January 10 to 20, with performances Wednesday through Saturday each week. Performances on January 10 and 11 are designated as "Ballet-for-

All” previews, part of The Crucible’s commitment to keeping art accessible to all; tickets for these nights are \$30 in advance (\$25 for Crucible members), \$35 at the door. The final night of the run will be the Grand Gala Finale performance, which includes pre- and post-performance receptions; tickets for this special evening fundraiser are \$120 (advance purchase only). Tickets for remaining performances are \$50 in advance (\$45 for Crucible members), \$55 at the door. All performances will be held at The Crucible, 1260 7th St., Oakland. For more information, call 444-0919 or visit [www.thecrucible.org](http://www.thecrucible.org).

### **About The Crucible**

The Crucible is a non-profit arts education center that fosters a collaboration of arts, industry and community, teaching and showcasing fire, metal, glass and light art in the East Bay for over five years. The Crucible offers more than 400 classes to over 3,000 students annually in everything from bronze casting to neon, welding to glass working, blacksmithing to fire dancing. Dedicated to the creative use of fire and light, The Crucible is known for its innovative and stunning public events and fundraisers, uniting artists from diverse disciplines. For more information, visit <http://www.thecrucible.org>.

### **For calendar editors:**

#### **When (Times & Prices):**

January 10 & 11: Ballet-for-All Preview Performances, \$30 in advance (\$25 for Crucible members), \$35 at door (if available); (doors at 7:00 PM, show at 8:30 PM)

January 13, 14, 17, 18 & 19, \$50 in advance (\$45 for Crucible members), \$55 at the door (if available); (doors at 7:00 PM, show at 8:30 PM)

Grand Gala Finale performance, January 20, \$120 (advance purchase only); reception at 6:30 PM; show at 8:30 PM

**What:** Fire Ballet (performance incorporating ballet, exotic dance traditions, aerial performance, and fire performance)

**Who:** Designed & Produced by Michael Sturtz of The Crucible  
Choreographed by Corinne Blum of The San Francisco Ballet.  
Musical Direction by Mark Jan Wlodarkiewicz  
Event is a fundraiser for by The Crucible.

**Where:** The Crucible, 1260 7th St., Oakland, CA 94607

**Public info:** 510.444.0919; [www.thecrucible.org](http://www.thecrucible.org)