

VPAC's Family Matinee Series kicks off with "stunning and brilliant"*



SHADOWLAND

***A mix of shadow theatre, storytelling, dance, circus and concert
Created in collaboration with Steven Banks of SpongeBob SquarePants***

Sunday, October 2 at 3:00pm

(Los Angeles, CA) August 24, 2016 - Following sold-out runs around the world, Pilobolus' amazing spectacle of inventiveness, *Shadowland*, returns to Southern California on Sunday, October 2 at 3:00pm to kick-off VPAC's popular Family Matinee Series.

Created by famed dance company Pilobolus after years of experimentation with short-form shadow play, *Shadowland* is part shadow act, part dance, part circus and part concert. It was conceived in collaboration with Steven Banks, lead writer for the playfully surreal animated series "SpongeBob SquarePants," and is propelled by a rhythmic original score by the popular American musician, producer, and film composer David Poe.

Seen by over half a million people, *Shadowland* follows a storybook journey of a young girl coming of age, a funny and sensational journey told with Pilobolus' signature fusion of shadow, theatre and dance. *The Guardian (London)* calls the production "punchy, thrilling and slick."

"We are delighted to welcome back Pilobolus to Southern California," said Thor Steingraber, Valley Performing Arts Center's Executive Director. "The Family Matinee series, last season, was a huge success and we're very excited for *Shadowland* to begin our series this season. Pilobolus has an intense creative energy and a distinct way of looking at dance, as an art form. This originality is in full force for *Shadowland*, and I can't wait for families to experience it together."

About Shadowland

Shadowland combines Pilobolus' legendary approach to modern dance with high-energy, fast-paced multimedia innovation, including multiple moving screens of different sizes and shapes, and a mind-bending merging of projected images and front-of-screen choreography that leverage darkness and light.

The Story: Night. A small house on a modest street. A teenage girl prepares for bed. While to her parents she is still a little girl, she longs for her independence. With nowhere for her thoughts to go but into her dreams, she sleeps, only to wake to something incredible lurking behind her bedroom wall—her shadow. Walls spin, darkness swallows the girl, and she's off on a journey into Shadowland—searching for a way out.



Thus begins *Shadowland* a signature Pilobolus performance with the fluid logic of a dream, the grace of an acrobatic dance, the humor of a child's cartoon diversion and the heart of a love story. *Shadowland* celebrates the strange and wonderful power of the dark to show us who we are in unexpected and utterly thrilling ways.

About Pilobolus

Pilobolus crystallinus is a phototropic (light loving) fungus. Commonly known as "Hat Thrower," its spores accelerate 0–45 mph in the first millimeter of their flight and adhere to wherever they land. The father of co-founder Jonathan Wolken was studying pilobolus in his biology lab when the group first formed. The name was apt, and stuck.

Pilobolus began at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire in 1971. Moses Pendleton, an English literature major and cross-country skier; Wolken, a philosophy science major and fencer; and Steve Johnson, a pre-med student and pole vaulter were enrolled in a dance composition class taught by Alison Becker Chase. In that class, they created their first dance, which they titled "Pilobolus" —and a legacy of movement and magic was born.

The group then went on to create dozens of dance works with its founding members Robby Barnett, Alison Chase, Martha Clarke, Lee Harris, Moses Pendleton, Michael Tracy, and Jonathan Wolken. In the more than four decades since, Pilobolus has performed on Broadway, at the Oscars, and the Olympic games, and has appeared on television, in movies, in advertisements, and in schools and businesses and created over 120 dance works. The company continues to propel the seeds of expression via human movement to every corner of the world, growing and changing each year while reaching new audiences and exploring new visual and musical planes.

Shadowland is part of Valley Performing Arts Center's *PLAY DATE* Family Sunday Matinee Series. This series also includes Akram Khan Company's *Chotto Desh* (November 20), *Hansel & Gretel: A Wickedly Delicious Musical Treat* (January 22), and *SHAOLIN WARRIORS: THE LEGEND CONTINUES* (February 19).

Calendar Listing for *Shadowland*:

Venue: Valley Performing Arts Center
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330

Date: Sunday, October 2 at 3:00pm

Tickets: **Price:** Starting at \$38
In Person: VPAC Ticket Office, located in the VPAC Courtyard
By Phone: (818) 677-3000
Online: ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org

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Photos: Click here for photos from the 2016-17 Season:
<http://www.valleyperformingartscenter.org/press/press-photos/>

**Broadway World*