

HOUSTON BALLET

STANTON WELCH - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

2008 - 2009 SEASON

All performances listed here are in Wortham Theater Center.

I. **ONEGIN (1965)**

Music by Peter I. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Arranged and orchestrated by Kurt-Heinz Stolze (1926-1970)

Choreography by John Cranko

Staged by Jane Bourne

Scenery and Costume Design by Elisabeth Dalton

Lighting Design by Steen Bjarke

Houston Ballet launches its 2008-2009 season with a new production of John Cranko's twentieth century masterpiece, **Onegin**, featuring sumptuous scenery and costumes by the English designer Elisabeth Dalton. A fiery love triangle and a deadly duel inflame passion in this story of an innocent young woman and the brooding Russian nobleman who cruelly rejects her. **Onegin** delivers the fervor and intrigue of a Gothic romance, and provides four superb, richly textured leading roles to showcase the dramatic abilities of Houston Ballet's dancers.

At 7:30 pm on September 4, 6, 12, 13, 2008

At 2:00 pm on September 7, 14, 2008

II. **CLASSICALLY MODERN (Fall Mixed Repertory Program)**

SOLO (1997)

Houston Ballet Premiere

Music by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Sigiswald Kuijken's amplified recording of Bach's Suite for Violin in D Minor

Choreography by Hans van Manen

Staged by Mea Venema

Costume Design by Keso Dekker

Lighting Design by Jan Hofstra

MEDIÆVAL BÆBES

World Premiere

Music by Mediæval Bæbes

Lighting Design by Lisa Pinkham

Choreography, Scenic Design and Costume Design by Stanton Welch

AFTERNOON OF A FAUN (1953)

Houston Ballet Premiere

Music by Claude Debussy

Prelude a l'Après-midi d'un Faune

Choreography by Jerome Robbins

Scenic and Lighting Design by Jean Rosenthal

Lighting Recreated by Christina R. Giannelli

Costume Design by Irene Sharaff

SYMPHONY IN C (1947)

Music by Georges Bizet

Choreography by George Balanchine

Costume Design – after Karinska.

Lighting Design by Christina R. Giannelli

Houston Ballet's fall repertory program pairs masterworks by three of the twentieth century's greatest choreographers -- George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins and the Dutch master Hans van Manen -- alongside a new work by Stanton Welch set to the music of the female vocal ensemble, Mediæval Bæbes. Jerome Robbins's mesmerizing **Afternoon of a Faun** depicts the sensuous, charged encounter between two dancers in a ballet studio. Hans van Manen's **Solo** is an athletic *tour-de-force* for three gifted male dancers set to music by Johann Sebastian Bach. Originally created for the Paris Opera Ballet in 1947 and now in the repertory of companies across the globe, Balanchine's **Symphony in C** is a dazzling full-company classical showpiece set to music of Georges Bizet.

At 7:30 pm on September 18, 20, 26, 27, 2008

At 2:00 pm on September 21, 27, 28, 2008

CULLEN SERIES

Featuring Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal

TooT

Music by Dmitri Shostakovich "*Jazz Suite No. 2*"

Choreography by Didy Veldman

NOCES

Music by Igor Stravinsky, *Les Noces*

Choreography by Stijn Celis

When the acclaimed Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal visited Houston in 2005, audiences adored the vitality and theatricality of the dancers. By popular demand, this vibrant company is back, showcasing acclaimed productions by two

dazzling contemporary choreographers, Didy Veldman and Stijn Celis. Veldman's **Toot** is a brilliantly theatrical circus, with dancers who fling themselves into falls and acrobatic phrases. Celis's **Noces** is a radical restaging of Nijinska's historic ballet. Set to Stravinsky's riveting score, the ballet features 24 dancers who strut, pose, and brutally challenge each other at a Balkan peasant wedding.

At 8:00 pm on November 7 and 8, 2008

THE NUTCRACKER (1987)

Music by Peter I. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Choreography by Ben Stevenson, O.B.E.

Scenic and Costume Design by Desmond Heeley

Lighting Design by Duane Schuler

A wonderful ballet for the entire family, **The Nutcracker** is the perfect way to introduce young children to the power and beauty of classical dance. Tchaikovsky's magical score, Desmond Heeley's fairy-tale scenery, and Ben Stevenson's vibrantly theatrical staging combine to create one of the most visually stunning productions of **The Nutcracker** in the world today. Join Clara on her unforgettable journey as she travels to the Land of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets, and marvel as the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Nutcracker Prince dance a pas de deux of crystalline beauty. It's a perfect holiday treat!

November 28 -December 28, 2008

At 7:30 pm Nov. 28*, 29*

and Dec. 6, 7*, 12, 13, 14*, 16*, 17*, 18*, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28*

At 2:00 pm on Nov. 29*, 30*

and Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28

***-Indicates discounted performance.**

JUBILEE OF DANCE

Houston Ballet will present **Jubilee of Dance**, a one-night-only event showcasing the depth and range of the company in a program of premieres and high-energy excerpts from signature works and beloved classics.

At 7:30 pm on Friday, December 5, 2008

III. MARIE

A World Premiere by Stanton Welch Inspired by the Life of Marie Antoinette

Music by Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975), arranged by Ermanno Florio
Choreography by Stanton Welch
Scenic and Costume Design by Kandis Cook
Lighting Design by Lisa Pinkham

In February 2009, Stanton Welch will create a new full-length narrative ballet inspired by the life of the legendary French Queen Marie Antoinette, who was born an Austrian arch duchess in 1755, married the French king Louis XVI at the age of fifteen, and was executed by guillotine at the height of the French Revolution in 1793. The London-based Canadian designer Kandis Cook will create the scenery and costumes for the production. Houston Ballet Music Director Ermanno Florio will arrange a score, featuring music by Dmitri Shostakovich.

At 7:30 pm on February 26, 28, and March 6, 7, 2009
At 2:00 pm on March 1, 8, 2009

IV. MASTERS OF MOVEMENT
(Winter Mixed Repertory Program)

THE LEAVES ARE FADING (1975)
Houston Ballet Premiere

Music by Antonin Dvořák (1841-1904)
"Cypresses" for string quartet, together with other chamber music for strings
Choreography by Antony Tudor
Scenic Design by Ming Cho Lee
Costume Design by Patricia Zipprodt
Lighting Design Recreated by Christina Giannelli

THE VERTIGINOUS THRILL OF EXACTITUDE (2004)
Houston Ballet Premiere

Music by Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Symphony No. 9 in C
Choreography and Lighting Design by William Forsythe
Costume Design by Stephen Galloway

SOLDIERS' MASS (1980)

Houston Ballet Premiere
Music by Bohuslav Martinů (1890-1959)
Choreography, Costume and Lighting Design by Jiří Kylián
Staged by Roslyn Anderson
Scenic Design by Joop Caboort

Houston Ballet pays tribute to the 100th anniversary of the birth of the great English choreographer Antony Tudor with the company premiere of his 1975 masterwork, **The Leaves are Fading**, a lyrical paean to first love and love recollected. Czech master Jiří Kylián's **Soldiers' Mass** is a deeply moving lament for the destruction and devastation of war that will showcase the strength

of Houston Ballet's male dancers. William Forsythe's **The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude** is an exhilarating classical showpiece, featuring stylish, sexy costumes and set to the music of Franz Schubert.

At 7:30 pm on March 12, 14, 20, 21, 2009

At 2:00 pm on March 15, 22, 2009

SPRING SHOWCASE

Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy Spring Performance

The gifted young artists of Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy, the company's professional training wing, cap their studies with two performances of a program featuring works tailor-made to show them at their best.

At 7:00 pm on Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25, 2009

At 1:30 pm on Saturday, April 25, 2009

V. OF AN ERA (Spring Mixed Repertory Program)

CAROUSEL (A DANCE) (2002)

Houston Ballet Premiere

Music by Richard Rodgers (1902-1979) and Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960)

Choreography by Christopher Wheeldon

Costume Design by Holly Hynes

Lighting Design by Mark Stanley

JARDI TANCAT (1983)

Houston Ballet Premiere

Songs by Maria del Mar Bonet

Choreography, Scenic and Costume Design by Nacho Duato

Staged by Nathalie Buisson

Lighting Design by Nicolás Fichtel (A.A.I.) (according to the original design by Joop Caboort)

NOSOTROS (2005)

Music by Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini, Op. 43

Choreography and Costume Design by Stanton Welch

Lighting Design by Christina R. Gianelli

Houston Ballet's spring repertory program pairs works by three of the world's most celebrated young choreographers. The English choreographer Christopher Wheeldon's **Carousel: A Dance** was created for New York City Ballet in 2002 as a tribute to the famous composer Richard Rodgers, and is set to melodic and evocative "Carousel Waltz" and "If I Loved You" from the iconic 1945 musical

Carousel. *Jardi Tancat* was the first work choreographed by the acclaimed Spanish choreographer Nacho Duato, and portrays in song and dance the poignant story of a people who work the barren land, praying to God for rain and enduring with great spirit in the face of hardship. Set against a starlit sky, Stanton Welch's lushly romantic **Nosotros** provides a wonderful showcase for the neoclassical technique of Houston Ballet's dancers.

At 7:30 pm on May 28, 30, and June 5, 6, 2009

At 2:00 pm on May 31 and June 7, 2009

VI. SWAN LAKE (2006)

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Choreography by Stanton Welch, after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov

Scenic and Costume Designs by Kristian Fredrikson

Houston Ballet caps its 2008-2009 season with a revival of Stanton Welch's spectacular staging of the beloved classic, **Swan Lake**, created for the company in 2006 and featuring sumptuous scenery and costumes by Kristian Fredrikson. One of the great love stories of classical ballet, **Swan Lake** tells the story of Odette – a beautiful maiden transformed into a swan by an evil knight – and the Prince who swears his eternal love for her. In his staging, Mr. Welch imbues the main characters with greater psychological complexity, and gives the work a twenty-first century pace.

At 7:30 pm on June 11, 13, 19, 20, 2009

At 2:00 pm on June 14, 21, 2009

At 1:30 pm on Saturday, June 20, 2009

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Full season subscriptions, with tickets to six productions, range in price from \$75 to \$864, depending on seat location and date of performances. To subscribe, call (713) 5-BALLET (713-522-5538) or purchase online at www.houstonballet.org.

SINGLE TICKETS

Single tickets will go on sale Monday, August 4, 2008 and may be purchased by calling 713-227-ARTS (713-227-2787) or purchased online at www.houstonballet.org.

###