

HOUSTON BALLET

STANTON WELCH - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE
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**HOUSTON BALLET GIVES
THREE FREE PERFORMANCES OF
CINDERELLA
AT MILLER OUTDOOR THEATRE**

Production is an Ideal Introduction for Families to the Art of Ballet

Houston, Texas – On May 14, 15, and 16, 2004 at 8:00 pm, Houston Ballet will present three FREE performances at Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park featuring Ben Stevenson’s magical production of **Cinderella**. With its breathtaking designs by David Walker and exquisite score by Prokofiev, **Cinderella** is a flagship work for Houston Ballet and an ideal introduction to classical dance for audiences of all ages. Houston Ballet’s performances at Miller Outdoor Theatre are sponsored in part by KPRC Channel 2 and the City of Houston through the Miller Theatre Advisory Board.

Mr. Stevenson’s production brings all of the elements of the beloved fairy tale to life: Cinderella's transformation from rags to riches by her Fairy Godmother, the ball where she meets Prince Charming, her dramatic departure at the stroke of midnight, and the Prince's search for the owner of the glass slipper. The hilarious antics of the Ugly Stepsisters provide delightful doses of humor, and the love story of Cinderella and her Prince fulfills every romantic fantasy.

Hailing the work as “splendid,” Anna Kisselgoff of *The New York Times* stated, “Ben Stevenson's **Cinderella** looked dazzling on a large stage...the production triumphed through atmosphere and Mr. Stevenson's exquisite classical set pieces.” (*The New York*

Times, June 30, 1996) Mr. Stevenson's **Cinderella** is in the repertoire of over twenty companies throughout the world including American Ballet Theatre, The Norwegian National Ballet in Oslo, and most recently the Finnish National Ballet in Helsinki. The work has emerged as the definitive version of the ballet for our time. Houston Ballet premiered **Cinderella** on September 30, 1976 at Jones Hall for the Performing Arts in Houston, Texas. The designs for the production were by Peter Farmer. On March 2, 1989, Houston Ballet unveiled a spectacular new production of the work, featuring designs by David Walker and lighting by Tony Tucci. Audiences and critics alike were entranced by the wondrous décor.

Houston Ballet Principal Dancer Lauren Anderson will star in the role of Cinderella opposite Phillip Broomhead on Friday and opposite Dominic Walsh on Sunday. Julie Gumbinner and Lucas Priolo will dance the lead roles on Saturday. Mr. Priolo debuted as the prince last season at Wortham Theater Center. Houston Chronicle dance critic Molly Glentzer commented, “Lucas Priolo was a captivating prince, impressive in his fouettés and spins.”

While all performances at Miller Outdoor Theatre are FREE of charge, Houston Ballet’s performances of **Cinderella** require tickets to the seated area. Tickets are available on the day of the performance from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Miller Theatre Box Office. Any tickets remaining are distributed one hour before curtain. There is a limit of four tickets per person maximum. 713.284.8354.

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**HOUSTON BALLET'S FREE PERFORMANCES AT
MILLER OUTDOOR THEATRE**

FACT SHEET

WHAT: **CINDERELLA (1989)**
Music by Serge Prokofiev (1891 - 1953)
Choreography by Ben Stevenson
Designs by David Walker
Lighting by Tony Tucci

Sponsored in part by KPRC Channel 2 and The City of Houston through the Miller Theatre Advisory Board.

**ABOUT
THE**

PROGRAM: On May 14, 15, and 16, 2004, Houston Ballet will present three FREE performances at Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park featuring Ben Stevenson's **Cinderella**. This magical production features breathtaking designs by David Walker and an exquisite score by Prokofiev. With great theatrical skill and imagination, Stevenson integrates the dramatic and comedic elements of this classic story, from the hilarious antics of the boisterous Ugly Stepsisters to the exquisitely romantic encounters of Cinderella and her prince. **Cinderella** is a flagship work for Houston Ballet and an ideal introduction to classical dance for audiences of all ages.

WHEN: At 8:00 PM on May 14, 15, 16 2004

WHERE: MILLER OUTDOOR THEATRE in Herman Park, Houston, Texas

TICKETS: FREE! Call Miller Theatre Box Office at 713 284 8350

HOW TO GET FREE TICKETS TO *CINDERELLA*:

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PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Special Arrangements

Special arrangements may be made for handicapped seating by calling the theatre office at 713.284.1321.

Listening Devices

Listening devices are available for the hearing-impaired at the Miller Theatre Box Office one hour prior to curtain. A valid Texas driver's license or State issued ID card is required for deposit.

FOR MORE

INFORMATION: Visit Houston Ballet on the World Wide Web at
www.houstonballet.org or
www.ci.houston.tx.us/specialevents/miller/may.htm