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IT'S CHRISTMAS IN JULY AS HOUSTON BALLET LAUNCHES SINGLE TICKETS FOR ITS FALL PERFORMANCES

*The Public Can Now Reserve Seats for *The Nutcracker* and *The Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance**

HOUSTON, TEXAS [July. 26, 2021] — Houston Ballet prepares for the gift of live theater with its onsale of single tickets for fall performances, *The Nutcracker* and *The Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance*, at 11 a.m. Monday, July 26, 2021.

"We can't wait to be back in the theater with our community this fall," says Stanton Welch AM, Houston Ballet Artistic Director. "We have a great season ahead and look forward to returning to the energy of a live audience in our home theater soon."

Houston Ballet's season begins September 30 with *The Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance*. Traditionally a one-night-only annual event, *The Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance* is extended to five incredible performances. Audiences can expect a selection of pas de deux and solo performances from beloved ballets, excerpts from fan favorite Welch's *Divergence* and a re-envisioned for the stage performance of Welch's pandemic era digital work *In Good Company*. The program runs September 30-October 3, and tickets start at \$25 per person.

"The Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance is named for a dear member of our Houston Ballet family. We can't thank her enough for her continued generous support of Houston Ballet and the arts. This annual showcase of Houston Ballet's range of talent is the perfect way to celebrate our return to the Wortham Theater Center stage," says Welch.

A most celebrated tradition, Welch's *The Nutcracker* returns to the stage November 26-December 24, 2021 for its fifth run since premiering at the Wortham Theater Center in 2016. There are 28 public facing performances, offering a variety of dates and times for audiences to choose from. Patrons are encouraged to buy early to secure the best seats at the best price. Single tickets currently start at \$27 per person. Houston Ballet's *The Nutcracker* is generously sponsored by Baker Botts, Bank of America, ConocoPhillips, H-E-B, Houston Methodist, Rand Group, Shell and United Airlines.

"*The Nutcracker* is such a grand tradition for our community, dancers and staff. We deeply felt its absence last year and are overjoyed to bring it back in full splendor this holiday season," says Welch.

To learn more about Houston Ballet's performances of *The Nutcracker* and *The Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance* at the Wortham Theater Center, please visit houstonballet.org.

ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET

With more than 50 years of rich history, Houston Ballet returns to its home stage at the Wortham Theater Center for its 2021-2022 season with a company of 59 dancers. With a budget of \$33.9 million and an endowment of \$79.2 million (as

of June 2019), it is America's fifth largest ballet company. Its \$46.6 million state-of-the-art performance space, Houston Ballet Center for Dance, opened in April 2011. Houston Ballet's reach is global, touring in renowned theaters in Dubai, London, Paris, Moscow, Spain, Montréal, Ottawa, Melbourne, New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and more.

Houston Ballet attracts prestigious leaders in dance. Australian choreographer Stanton Welch AM has served as Artistic Director of Houston Ballet since 2003, raising the level of the company's classical technique and commissioning works from dance legends such as Julia Adam, George Balanchine, Aszure Barton, Christopher Bruce, Alexander Ekman, William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Edwaard Liang, Trey McIntyre and Justin Peck. Executive Director James Nelson serves as the administrative leader of the organization, a position he assumed in February 2012 after serving as the Company's General Manager for more than a decade.

Beyond its stage presence, Houston Ballet maintains a strong foothold in continuing to foster a love for dance in future generations. Its Education and Community Engagement program reaches more than 70,000 individuals in the Houston area annually. Houston Ballet Academy trains more than 1,000 students every year, producing more than 64 percent of the elite athletes that comprise Houston Ballet's current Company.

For more information on Houston Ballet, visit houstonballet.org.

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