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PRESENTS

ROBBINS

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HOUSTON BALLET CELEBRATES ROBBINS' CENTENNIAL WITH ONE-WEEKEND-ONLY PERFORMANCES

WHO: Houston Ballet

WHAT: ROBBINS: A Centennial Celebration

WHERE: Wortham Theater Center

WHEN: March 7-10, 2019

TICKETS: On Sale Now at www.houstonballet.org or 713.227.ARTS(2787)

MARCH 7-10, 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 7:30 PM	8 7:30 PM	9 2:00 PM 7:30 PM
10 2:00 PM	11	12	13	14	15	16

PHOTOS & VIDEO: <https://bit.ly/2l1Gnsf>

HOUSTON, TEXAS [February 28, 2019] — Houston Ballet is thrilled to join dance companies around the world in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the iconic American choreographer Jerome Robbins' birth. The Company will perform three diverse ballets in ROBBINS: A Centennial Celebration this March to honor his life and the works he brought to the stage.

Fancy Free opens the program with a delightful glimpse into the antics of three sailors on leave one hot summer night in 1940s New York City. Set to the music of Leonard Bernstein, Robbins' combines his distinctive Broadway style with the balletic grace that helped launch his career and inspire the Broadway musical *On the Town*.

The Cage is a lesser-known work choreographed to a score by Igor Stravinsky. Houston Ballet Artistic Director Stanton Welch AM selected this piece specifically to feature Houston Ballet's strong corps of female dancers, who transform into a troupe of abstract and insect-like creatures who hunt down their male prey in the ballet.

The ever-popular *The Concert (Perils of Everybody)*, music by Frédéric Chopin, concludes the performance. Credited as one of the great comedic ballets of all time, *The Concert* charmingly and hilariously depicts the riotous behavior and musings of eccentric audience members at a classical music event.

ROBBINS: A Centennial Celebration is overseen by Jean-Pierre Frohlich, who danced under Robbins and served as one of his ballet masters. Because of his experiences with the great dance maker, and as a committee member of the Robbins Rights Trust, Frohlich is delighted to keep Robbins' body of work alive with companies such as Houston Ballet.

"Setting these pieces on Houston Ballet has been quite enjoyable," says Frohlich. "The pieces on the program are pure theater, so it's not just about the steps. It's also about the intent, and [Houston Ballet has] been amazing in reproducing that."

One of the rare choreographers to find success in theater, movies and television as well as in ballet, Robbins' work is infinitely approachable. In fact, all audience members will appreciate Robbins' skills, regardless of their experience with classical ballet. From the Broadway appeal of *Fancy Free* to the edginess of *The Cage* to the light-hearted humor of *The Concert*, Houston Ballet's celebratory program showcases the tremendous range of Robbins' talent.

"[Robbins'] ballets teach us something about ourselves while watching them," explains Frohlich. "Robbins would find things in everyday life that were interesting, and he would transmit that very often in his ballets."

Join Houston Ballet in celebrating this true American treasure and one of the greatest minds in dance on the Wortham Theater Center stage March 7-10. Tickets are available now at HoustonBallet.org and 713.227.ARTS(2787).

ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET

Houston Ballet has evolved into a company of 60 dancers with a budget of \$33 million, making it the country's fifth largest ballet company. With a state-of-the-art performance space built especially for the company—also the largest professional dance facility in America—Houston Ballet's \$46.6 million Center for Dance opened in April 2011, with an endowment of just over \$74.1 million (as of July 2017).

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 makers such as Christopher Bruce, Alexander Ekman, William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Trey McIntyre, Julia Adam, Edwaard Liang, and George Balanchine. Executive Director James Nelson serves as the administrative leader of the company, a position he assumed in February 2012 after serving as the company's General Manager for more than a decade.

Houston Ballet has toured extensively both nationally and internationally. Over the past fifteen years, the company has appeared in renowned theaters in London, Paris, Moscow, Spain, Montréal, Ottawa, Melbourne, New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and in cities large and small across the United States.

Houston Ballet's Education and Community Engagement Program reaches more than 60,000 individuals in the Houston area annually. Houston Ballet Academy teaches more than one thousand students every year, and approximately 50 percent of the current company was trained by the Academy.

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

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