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PRESENTS

WORLD PREMIERE BY STANTON WELCH AM

SYLVIA

Underwritten by Phoebe and Bobby Tudor

HOUSTON BALLET PREPARES TO UNVEIL A NEW WORLD PREMIERE, SYLVIA

WHO: Houston Ballet

WHAT: *Sylvia*

WHERE: Wortham Theater Center

WHEN: February 21 – March 3, 2019

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

FEB. 21-MARCH 3, 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
17	18	19	20	Feb. 21 7:30 PM	22	23 7:30 PM
24 2:00 PM	25	26	27	28	March 1 7:30 PM	2 7:30 PM
3 2:00 PM	4	5	6	7	8	9

PHOTOS & VIDEO: <https://bit.ly/2CvIoW8>

HOUSTON, TEXAS [January 22, 2019] — Houston Ballet prepares for the upcoming opening night of its brand-new production, *Sylvia* by Artistic Director Stanton Welch AM. Set to the gorgeous score from Léo Delibes, Welch’s version of *Sylvia* will simultaneously tell three love stories that are destined to collide. Using Greek mythology and modern technology, Welch is crafting a masterpiece fit for Houston’s appetite for bold, new adventure.

Welch continues to put strong female characters at the forefront of his ballets with *Sylvia*. He has focused his interpretation of this ancient Greek tale on three dynamic leads: the huntress Sylvia, the goddess Artemis and the mortal Psyche. The ballet follows each woman as she faces crucial moral choices on her journey towards her heart’s desires.

“One of the interesting things about this version of *Sylvia* will be that the female roles are very much the center of the stories,” says Welch. “Sylvia, Artemis and Psyche all lead their stories, their loves and their lives. This is what will really set this ballet apart, three female leads within one work that are all leading the charge of the story.”

To help visually tell this epic tale of three women in two worlds, Welch has enlisted world-renowned designer Jerome Kaplan for costumes and sets and the innovative Wendall K. Harrington for projections. Kaplan will use color to let audiences know who is who and what world they are in at that moment, while Harrington’s projections

will transport the audience between the worlds of gods and mortals within seconds. These elements will blend together seamlessly for a thematic look to enhance the story and audience experience.

Sylvia takes the stage at the Wortham Theater Center Feb. 21 – March 3. Audiences can expect love, betrayal, trickery and sword fights, all in addition to the stunning choreography and phenomenal dancing that Welch and Houston Ballet are known for. This will be a can't miss production for first time guests and loyal patrons alike, and ticket buyers are encouraged to secure their seats early at HoustonBallet.org or 713.227.ARTS(2787).

Sylvia is generously underwritten by Phoebe and Bobby Tudor. Longtime supporters of Houston Ballet, the Tudors have an impact that extends throughout the Houston community. They recently received the 2018 Maurice Hirsch Award for Philanthropy for their charitable leadership.

“Phoebe and Bobby Tudor have an amazing impact on Houston Ballet,” says Welch. “I can't think of an element of what we do that they haven't been involved in and cared about. They make everyone in our organization feel loved and connected. For us they are family, and I thank them for this wonderful opportunity to choreograph a childhood dream, to bring it here to Houston and give our dancers great roles to dance.”

More on the Making of *Sylvia*

Learn about what it takes to launch a new production at Houston Ballet's free Dance Talk “A World Premiere: The Creative Team Behind *Sylvia*” on Tuesday, February 12 at 7:15 PM at the Houston Ballet Center for Dance. Audiences will get a behind-the-scenes take on Welch's vision and choreography, Kaplan's scenery and costumes, and Harrington's projections.

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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