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**HOUSTON BALLET ANNOUNCES “DIVERGENCE” AND “SWAN LAKE”**

**PHOTOS & VIDEOS: [**[**Click Here**](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/7t7i0hpzf6ie75ei3jjwo/h?dl=0&rlkey=4jorn1pr0940eaj8xcuotnb8m)**]**

**HOUSTON, TEXAS [April 27, 2023]** —Houston Ballet closes out the 2022-2023 season with two final blockbuster productions: *Divergence*, May 25 – June 4, and *Swan Lake*, June 8 – 18. *Divergence* features three ballets from world renowned choreographers, Aszure Barton, Stanton Welch AM and Justin Peck, each with their own distinct style. Then the Company will finish the season with one of ballet’s most iconic works, *Swan Lake*. In Stanton Welch’s opulent production, the main characters are imbued with greater psychological complexity, giving the work a twenty-first-century pace.

***Divergence****Angular Momentum* **|** Choreographer: Aszure Barton | Music: Mason Bates
*Divergence* | Choreographer: Stanton Welch AM | Music: Georges Bizet
*Under the Folding Sky* (World Premiere) **|** Choreographer: Justin Peck **|** Music: Philip Glass
May 25 – June 4, 2023

Aszure Barton’s *Angular Momentum* returns to the stage for the first time since its premiere in 2012, paying homage to Space City with influences ranging from the city’s architecture to the moon landing. With otherworldly costume design by Fritz Masten, a Houston-inspired set by lighting and scenic designer Burke Brown and Mason Bates’ hybrid orchestral-electronic score featuring archival NASA recordings, *Angular Momentum* takes the audience out of this world. Stanton Welch’s *Divergence*, the popular, unexpected, and explosive audience-favorite, is back on stage as a complete work for the first time since 2012. *Divergence* has become one of Houston Ballet's signature works, earning critical acclaim and delighting audiences around the world with its bold and innovative choreography.

“It’s wonderful to bring Divergence back to the stage after such a long time. This work is one of my first ballets and still, 30 plus years later continues to challenge dancers and hopefully thrill audiences. It’s going to be an exciting adrenaline rush for all.” – Artistic Director Stanton Welch

Rounding out the program is a world premiere from Tony Award-winning choreographer Justin Peck. His second commission for the Company, *Under the Folding Sky* is inspired by James Turrell’s *Twilight Epiphany* Skyspace at Rice University. Famed composer Philip Glass's opera "The Photographer" sets the musical stage for designs from frequent Peck collaborators, costumes by design duo Reid Bartelme and Harriet Jung of Reid & Harriet, lighting by Brandon Sterling Baker and scenic design by Rice University alum Karl Jensen. *Divergence* showcases the full company at its best.

Houston Ballet’s performances of *Divergence* are underwritten by Stephanie & Frank Tsuru and Phoebe & Bobby Tudor, and funded in part by The City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance.

***Swan Lake***
Choreographer: Stanton Welch AM | Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
June 8 – 18, 2023

One of the world’s greatest love stories told through dance, Stanton Welch’s *Swan Lake* tells the iconic tale of the everlasting love between Prince Siegfried and maiden-turned-white-swan, Odette, as they are tested by evil knight Rothbart and his black-swan enchantress, Odile. Welch’s extravagant production uses Tchaikovsky’s full score to aplomb for this three-act masterpiece, with lavish costumes and set design inspired by John William Waterhouse’s painting *The Lady of Shalott* by the late Kristian Fredrikson. *Swan Lake* was the first full-length story ballet that Welch created on Houston Ballet as Artistic Director in 2006. This will be Houston Ballet’s fifth time performing this opulent production, returning to the Wortham Theater Center for the first time since 2014 following a Hometown Tour across the Theater District to Jones Hall after Hurricane Harvey in 2018 and a critically acclaimed tour to the famed Tokyo Bunka Kaikan theater in Tokyo, Japan in October 2022.

Houston Ballet’s performances of *Swan Lake* are generously underwritten by Margaret Alkek Williams, and sponsored by ConocoPhillips, Mitsubishi Corporations (Americas), Norton Rose Fulbright and The Wortham Foundation, Inc.

**ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET**

With more than 50 years of rich history, Houston Ballet has evolved into a company of 61 dancers, with a budget of $34.6 million and an endowment of $88.9 million (as of June 2022), making it the country’s fourth-largest ballet company. Its $46.6 million state-of-the-art performance space, the Houston Ballet Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance, opened in April 2011. In addition, 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 169,000 individuals in the Houston area annually. Houston Ballet Academy trains more than 1,000 students every year, producing more than 60 percent of the elite athletes that comprise Houston Ballet’s current Company.

For more information on Houston Ballet, visit [houstonballet.org](https://www.houstonballet.org/)

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