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## HOUSTON BALLET ACADEMY GOES GLOBAL WITH ONLINE SUMMER SATURDAYS

**HOUSTON, TEXAS [May 18, 2020]** – After responding to the COVID-19 crisis with a successful shift to virtual classes this spring, Houston Ballet Academy announces its new online summer programming open to the public. During this time when dance enthusiasts are not able to gather in the studio, the Academy strives to reach new students near and far through Summer Saturdays.

"Our doors are closed at the Center for Dance, but our virtual classes are wide open for the community to experience what makes Houston Ballet Academy so special," says Houston Ballet Academy Director Melissa Bowman. "Come dance with us!"

Through Summer Saturdays, the Academy invites all ages to partake in live, virtual dance classes via Zoom. Summer Saturdays is comprised of two class series, Online Creative Movement and Online Master Classes.

"Our weekly Creative Movement classes are designed for young children and their families, to use their imagination to explore movement and music while building strength, flexibility and balance," says Bowman.

The Online Creative Movement class series is geared towards children ages two to six, and the whole family can join. The five-class series begins Saturday, May 30, 2020, with the thirty-minute dance class at 10:30 a.m. CST. The cost is \$10 per class per household and students can sign up for one or all five classes.

"The Saturday Master Class series gives dancers 14 and older an opportunity to take classes and learn from Houston Ballet's world-renowned faculty and artists," says Bowman.

Held each Saturday in June, Online Master Classes will be taught by former Houston Ballet Principal Dancer Lauren Anderson, Houston Ballet II Ballet Master Claudio Muñoz and guest teachers, to be announced at a later date. These virtual drop-in classes will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CST and cost \$15 per class.

Houston Ballet Academy's Summer Saturdays are open to all, bringing world class ballet to living rooms across the globe. To learn more about each class series and to register, please visit https://bit.ly/36c7gRi.

## **ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET ACADEMY**

Since its founding in 1955, Houston Ballet Academy has provided the highest quality ballet training. The Academy's outstanding faculty includes teachers who have performed with Houston Ballet and other prestigious companies throughout the world. The Academy also includes Houston Ballet II, the second company of Houston Ballet comprised of an array of ballet students from around the world. Houston Ballet Academy teaches more than one thousand students every year, and over 50 percent of the current company trained in the Academy.

For more information on Houston Ballet Academy, visit <a href="https://example.com/houstonballet.org">houstonballet.org</a>.

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