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HOUSTON BALLET PRESENTS ITS ANNUAL ACADEMY SPRING SHOWCASE Academy Students Shine in this Production Featuring the Company's Future Stars

WHO: Houston Ballet
WHAT: Academy Spring Showcase
WHEN: May 24 at 7:30 PM, May 25 at 7:30 PM, May 26 at 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
WHERE: University of Houston's Moores Opera House
TICKETS: Tickets start at \$20; Available here: link

PHOTOS: https://bit.ly/2Fea29a

HOUSTON, TEXAS [April 25, 2018] — Houston Ballet Academy's annual Spring Showcase has a new venue this year at the University of Houston's Moores Opera House, May 24 – 26, 2018. The showcase features an array of performances by Academy students from Level 1 through Houston Ballet II. See these students shine in what is always a remarkable display of exceptional talent and hopeful futures.

HBII and Professional Program students effortlessly embrace excerpts from the challenging classical ballet *Raymonda* staged by HBII Ballet Master Claudio Muñoz after Marius Petipa. Pre-Professional students impressively tackle works originally set on the company by Artistic Director Stanton Welch AM, including *The Ladies* and *The Gentleman*, a tribute to Cecil C. Connor. The performance concludes with Welch's *Studies* featuring students in all levels; emphasizing the Academy's ability to take students from preparatory ballet and develop them into skilled professional dancers. Formatting:

"From the technically challenging *Raymonda* performed by our Professional Program, to the traditional presentation of Stanton Welch's *Studies*, highlighting every student in the Academy, this year's performance is sure to delight audiences," says Academy Director Vicki Attard. She's particularly looking forward to the annual presentation of *Studies*. "This ballet is succinctly endearing. It grows with each student through their Academy years, and allows students to not only measure their successes, but actually see their future."

Proceeds from ticket sales of Houston Ballet Academy's Spring Showcase <mark>help subsidize</mark> tuition for all students enrolled in the Academy.

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 also engages more than 60,000 local students per year in dance through several Education and Community Engagement programs. For more information, visit www.houstonballet.org.