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**HOUSTON BALLET PROUDLY ANNOUNCES ITS 2025-26 SEASON**

**Photos & Videos:** [Link [here](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/1f04sluaer653ia48nsp2/AHMB8dJXO1GEqYLdQr4qD3s?rlkey=hj482cqndbbl5txsj9d3pjz6f&st=ewsyl1t7&dl=0)]

**HOUSTON, TX – February 20, 2025 –** Houston Ballet proudly unveils its 2025-26 season, curated by Artistic Directors Julie Kent and Stanton Welch AM. A masterful blend of classics and contemporary works, this upcoming season promises to captivate seasoned ballet enthusiasts and newcomers alike with world premieres, audience favorites, and celebrated guest choreographers.

Seasonal highlights include Stanton Welch’s *The Nutcracker* and the one-night-only performances of the Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance and Houston Ballet Academy Spring Showcase.

Season packages are available starting at $126 through the Box Office at (713) 227-2787 (ARTS) or online at **houstonballet.org**. Single tickets will be announced in Summer 2025.

**The 2025-26 season programming includes:**

**Repertory I: Onegin (September 5-14, 2025)**

Kicking off the season, John Cranko’s *Onegin* returns to the stage, weaving a poignant tale of unrequited love set to Tchaikovsky’s stirring music. Follow Onegin, a worldly aristocrat, as he grapples with the consequences of rejecting a young woman’s affections, unfolding a narrative of love, loss, and personal redemption.

**Repertory II: Rock, Roll & Tutus (September 18-28, 2025)**

**Illuminate** (Long, 2023 World Premiere) | **Vi et animo** (Welch, 2023 World Premiere) |
 **Rooster** (Bruce)

This dynamic mixed program features two world premieres from the Houston Ballet repertoire and a vibrant piece by long-standing choreographer for Houston Ballet Christopher Bruce. *Illuminate* is the first work by Houston Ballet Soloist Jacquelyn Long to debut with the Company; it features six dancers in a quick-moving, vibrant celebration of dance. Set to Tchaikovsky’s iconic Piano Concerto No. 1, Stanton Welch’s *Vi et animo* is a dazzling display of talent and technique, highlighting bold and dramatic movements. To round out the mixed bill, Bruce’s *Rooster* blends classic rock with contemporary ballet, featuring music from the iconic Rolling Stone as it showcases a perfect marriage of music and movement.

**Repertory III: Sylvia (February 26 - March 8, 2026)**

The majestic *Sylvia* returns to enchant audiences with Welch’s bold reimagining that highlights the strength, complexity, and individuality of its female leads—Sylvia, the fearless huntress; Artemis, the commanding goddess; and Psyche, the compassionate mortal. Set to Delibes’ lush score, this timeless narrative explores the intersections of love, courage, and self-discovery.

**Repertory IV: Broken Wings Triple Bill (March 12-22, 2026)**

**World Premiere** (Stanton Welch) | **Petite Mort** (Jiří Kylián) | **Broken Wings** (Ochoa)

This diverse triple bill includes a brand-new creation by Stanton Welch set to the music of Mason Bates, Jiří Kylián’s homage to the beloved concertos of Mozart, and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa’s tribute to Frida Kahlo. Stanton Welch AM will debut a thrilling World Premiere showcasing a score that displays a masterful blend of sounds, incorporating marimba, glockenspiel, bells, and sampled elements like chirping crickets. Jirí Kylián’s *Petite Mort* commemorates Mozart’s death, featuring two of his works as six men and women dance with fencing foils—all playing a pivotal role in the choreography, balancing minimalist movements with profound emotional resonance. The final ballet, *Broken Wings*, is inspired by the life of Frida Kahlo and set to an evocative original score by Peter Salem, reveals how she channeled her pain and struggles into profoundly transformative art.

**Repertory V: An Evening With The Stars (May 28 - June 7, 2026)**

**World Premiere** (Alice Topp) | **Dances at a Gathering** (Robbins) | **Tapestry** (Stanton Welch)

A striking program with a world premiere by Alice Topp and the return of two beautiful performances by Welch and Robbins. Renowned Australian choreographer Alice Topp brings her unique artistic voice to the Company for the first time, promising to captivate audiences with innovative movement and compelling storytelling. Jerome Robbins’ *Dances at a Gathering* is a masterful piano ballet set to the enchanting music of Chopin, capturing the full range of human connection with delicate Slavic folk influences subtly woven into the movements. Stanton Welch’s *Tapestry* draws inspiration from the idea of a ballet company as a living tapestry—a vibrant blend of dancers, bodies, and artists coming together to create something greater than the sum of its parts. Set to Mozart’s Violin Concerto No. 5, the production features striking loom-inspired sets and colorful costumes by Holly Hynes.

**Repertory VI: Giselle (June 11-21, 2026)**

Closing the season is the timeless romance and haunting beauty of Stanton Welch’s *Giselle*, a beloved classical masterpiece, which first debuted at Houston Ballet in 2016 and features breathtaking sets and costumes from the acclaimed Roberta Guidi di Bagno. *Giselle* tells the story of a beautiful peasant girl who is deceived in love by an aristocrat disguised as a commoner with themes of love, betrayal, and redemption unfolding before audiences’ eyes.

**The seasonal performances for the 2025-26 season include:**

**The Nutcracker (November 28 - December 28, 2025)**

Houston Ballet’s cherished holiday tradition returns, spreading festive cheer with Stanton Welch’s *The Nutcracker*. Embark on a journey through the dazzling Land of Snow to the radiant and jubilant Kingdom of Sweets alongside Clara, Drosselmeyer, and the Prince. Renowned as one of the most magnificent productions ever staged, Welch’s *The Nutcracker* boasts hundreds of characters, intricate sets, and breathtaking details that will mesmerize audiences.

**Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance (December 5, 2025)**

The annual Jubilee of Dance celebrates Houston Ballet’s stellar dancers and achievements in a one-night-only spectacular. The Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance is a paramount and joyous affair that commemorates the rich legacy of the Company, featuring curated selections from its vast repertoire and a sneak peek into what's to come.

**Academy Spring Showcase (April 24-25, 2026)**

Witness the next generation of stars as Houston Ballet Academy students shine in this vibrant showcase. The annual Academy Spring Showcase features the remarkable talent of young artists at every level of training from the Academy in full choreographic display. Whether performing pieces from the Company's repertoire or new works created specifically for them, these dancers display an array of skill and artistry. It's a coveted chance to witness incredible up-and-coming young dancers who represent the future of ballet.

**ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET**

With over 50 years of rich history, Houston Ballet has evolved into a company with a budget of $37.6 million and an endowment of $97.5 million (as of June 2023), 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 theaters in Dubai, London, Paris, Moscow, Spain, Montréal, Ottawa, Melbourne, New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Tokyo and more.

Australian choreographer Stanton Welch AM has served as Artistic Director of Houston Ballet since 2003. Welch has choreographed 43 new works for Houston Ballet during his tenure while ensuring the growth of the Company’s repertoire by presenting works from George Balanchine, William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Sir Kenneth MacMillan, John Neumeier, and Jerome Robbins. Welch continues the legacy of Houston Ballet being a choreographic Eden by commissioning over 30 works from world-renowned choreographers including Aszure Barton, Trey McIntyre, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and Justin Peck. Julie Kent joined Welch as Artistic Director in 2023, after serving as Artistic Director of The Washington Ballet from 2016 – 2023 and following a storied career as a Principal ballerina of American Ballet Theatre - the longest-tenured dancer in ABT’s 85-year history. 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 85,000 individuals in the Houston area annually. Houston Ballet Academy trains more than 1,000 students every year, producing more than 60 percent of the extraordinary artists that comprise Houston Ballet’s current Company. For more information on Houston Ballet, visit [houstonballet.org.](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.houstonballet.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7CALee%40houstonballet.org%7C64e1cc87723949d1a10408dc32704e3b%7C96ffe6484e0e4d839e7a0b72af0ac187%7C0%7C0%7C638440705143801451%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VlLWJ3L1c7HffofHZEmSzSNXbtA4wnnmnjGzrK9zMKE%3D&reserved=0) ###