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MEDIA CONTACT:

press@houstonballet.org

Houston Ballet Presents: *Manon*

A 20th-Century Masterpiece Returning to Houston for the First Time in Over a Decade

September 24 – October 4, 2026

PHOTOS & VIDEOS [HERE](#)

HOUSTON, TX – July 15, 2026 – Houston Ballet brings back one of the most celebrated story ballets in history: Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Manon*, taking the stage September 24 through October 4, 2026.

Created during MacMillan's tenure as Artistic Director of The Royal Ballet in London, *Manon* is set to a sweeping arrangement of music by Jules Massenet and follows the captivating anti-heroine *Manon* and her devoted but impoverished Des Grieux as they are drawn into a world of luxury, temptation, and heartbreak from the gritty streets of Paris to the bayous of Louisiana. First staged by Houston Ballet in 1994, the production became a defining piece in the company's repertoire before its last appearance in 2015. Its return marks a long-awaited reunion with Houston audiences.

"*Manon* asks dancers to be actors first," said Artistic Director Julie Kent. "Every gesture has to carry the weight of desire, ambition, and consequence. Bringing it back after all this time feels like reintroducing Houston to one of its great love stories."

The title role is widely considered one of the most demanding in the international repertoire, requiring a ballerina to move convincingly from naive convent girl to scheming Parisian courtesan to a woman undone by desperation, all within a single evening. The physical demands match the dramatic ones: *Manon*'s bedroom pas de deux and the ballet's harrowing final scene rank among the most technically and emotionally punishing partnered sequences in classical ballet.

The production fits into a season balancing ballet's foundational voices with new commissions and world premieres across Houston Ballet's calendar. Where *Pecos Bill* opens the season with homegrown Texas mythology, *Manon* turns toward the dramatic tradition MacMillan famously helped define."

Casting for this production will be announced closer to the performance.

Performance Details

***Manon*, September 24 – October 4, 2026**

Schedule:

7:30 p.m. on September 24 and 26 and October 2 and 3

2:00 p.m. on September 27 and October 4

Venue: Wortham Theater Center 501 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77002

Tickets: <https://www.houstonballet.org/season/tickets/2026-2027-season/manon/>

ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET

Founded in 1969, Houston Ballet is one of the nation's leading ballet companies, inspiring audiences through artistic excellence, bold choreography, and a commitment to the future of dance. Under the artistic leadership of Artistic Directors Julie Kent and Stanton Welch AM and the chief administrative leadership of Executive Director & CEO Sonja Kostich, the Company is home to the Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance, the largest professional dance facility in the country. Houston Ballet operates with a \$47 million annual budget (FY27) and a \$134.5 million endowment (as of February 2026), presents a diverse repertory of classical and contemporary works, and tours internationally with a global reach spanning 116 countries.

Houston Ballet Academy serves as a leading pipeline for emerging dance talent, training more than 1,000 students annually—most on scholarship. Through complementary Education and Community Engagement programs, the Company reaches more than 85,000 people annually, expanding access to dance across the Houston region.

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