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Houston Ballet Presents: Pecos Bill

A Mixed Repertory Bringing Frontier Spirit and Texan Charm to Houston Ballet's Season Opener

September 11 – 20, 2026

PHOTOS & VIDEOS [HERE](#)

HOUSTON, TX – July 15, 2026 – This fall, Houston Ballet will open its 2026-2027 season with **Pecos Bill**, a mixed repertory program running September 11 through 20 at the Wortham Theater Center. The can't-miss performance brings together three works that look at American identity from very different angles, including one that hits especially close to home for Houston audiences.

Anchoring the evening is Artistic Director Stanton Welch AM's *Pecos Bill*, a vibrant theatrical revival inspired by the tall tale of the legendary cowboy and his ill-fated romance with Bluefoot Sue. Playful, larger-than-life, and unmistakably Texan, the piece was chosen as a celebratory work for America's 250th anniversary. Houston Ballet's production leans into that homegrown charm, capturing the spirit of the frontier as familiar tunes like "Deep in the Heart of Texas" and "Happy Trails to You" are woven into a poignant original score by Matthew Pierce.

"There's something fitting about celebrating America's 250th with a story that's as much ours as it is the country's," said Welch. "We last performed this piece 16 years ago, and this felt like a natural time to reprise the story. *Pecos Bill* gives us a chance to have fun while still saying something real about who we are."

Stories like *Pecos Bill*'s turn ordinary people into legends. It's the same instinct behind virality and self-made fame across modern pop culture. Houston Ballet's revival channels that urge: turning grit into something larger than life.

The program also includes the Houston Ballet debut of Lar Lubovitch's *Meadow*. Lubovitch is known for choreography that bridges modern dance and ballet with a high degree of musicality. His work in *Meadow* has been described as both lush and lyrical. The piece carries a personal thread for the company: Artistic Director Julie Kent danced in *Meadow*'s original cast with American Ballet Theatre.

Rounding out the production is George Balanchine's *Symphonie Concertante*, also a first for the company. The neoclassical work pairs Mozart's stately score with Balanchine's classical precision. After emigrating to the United States, Balanchine reshaped classical ballet into

something new, building an American approach to the art form that would influence generations of choreographers and companies. *Symphonie Concertante* brings that legacy to the Wortham stage this fall.

Houston Ballet joins other major institutions in marking the nation's 250th anniversary through performance this year, but Pecos Bill offers the unique chance for Houston to see its own frontier history reflected in a season-opening celebration of American identity, told through dance.

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

Performance Details

Pecos Bill, September 11 – 20, 2026

Mixed Repertory Program

Schedule:

7:00 p.m. on September 11

7:30 p.m. on September 12 & 18

1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on September 19

2:00 p.m. on September 13 and 20, 2026

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

Tickets: <https://www.houstonballet.org/seasontickets/2026-2027-season/pecos-bill/>

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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