# AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

SUSAN JAFFE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**SUMMER 2024** 

JUNE 18-JULY 20

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE AT LINCOLN CENTER

SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE APRIL 22, 2024

**ABT.ORG** 

# FROM THE DESK OF SUSAN JAFFE

### ABT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am delighted to share with you works distinctly curated for my second season as Artistic Director of American Ballet Theatre.

We are America's National Ballet Company® and our mission is to offer our audiences the highest quality of classical, dramatic, and contemporary ballet. This season fulfills that mission by providing a wide array, from the most classical of ballets, Swan Lake, to the superbly dramatic Onegin and Romeo and Juliet, to the extraordinary contemporary ballets such as Christopher Wheeldon's Like Water for Chocolate and Wayne McGregor's award-winning Woolf Works, in its New York Premiere.

ABT's performances encompass the rich traditions of the past, while also presenting the fresh and innovative works of today. In this way, we keep our art form vital, vibrant, and diverse.

Thank you for coming to witness the inspiring performances of our extraordinary artists and to lose yourself in these remarkable ballets. We hope you will return time and again to experience our poetry and feats of virtuosity.

Enjoy!





























American Ballet Theatre is thrilled to host the

# 2024 SPRING GALA: BALLET BRILLIANCE

at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York City on

### **TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024**

Following a special one-night-only program featuring ABT's extraordinary dancers performing excerpts from the 2024 Summer season, guests will enjoy dinner and dancing.

The evening will honor **Chai Vasarhelyi** for her incomparable commitment to artistic excellence and innovation as a filmmaker, as well as her fervent advocacy of classical ballet.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit abt.org/SpringGala

# Elevate Your Experience at the Met with Our 2024 Season Celebratory Toasts!

This season, ABT unfolds a series of celebratory evenings, to toast and spotlight premieres, milestones, and some very special dancers. Each event is an opportunity for you to engage with our exceptional artists and help them celebrate their successes. Admission is extended to performance ticket

holders—simply purchase a separate reception ticket to take part in these exclusive gatherings!

JUNE 18 Met Season Opening Night—Onegin Toast

JUNE 25 Woolf Works New York Premiere Celebration

JUNE 28 Honoring Alessandra Ferri

**JULY 5** Corps de Ballet Celebration

JULY 19 Herman Cornejo 25th Anniversary Toast

For more information, visit abt.org/SummerEvents

Alessandra Ferri in *Woolf Works* courtesy of The Royal Ballet. Photo: Tristram Kenton.

## ABTKids with Misty Copeland | June 22 at 11:00 AM!

Share the wonder of dance with your entire family as ABT presents *ABTKids*! Hosted by Principal Dancer Misty Copeland and featuring child-friendly highlights from the Company's vast repertoire, *ABTKids* is a special one-hour performance designed to introduce young audiences ages, 4–12, to the magic and beauty of dance. To find out more about the purchase of an *ABTKids* ticket, visit *abt.org/ABTKids*.



Photo: Rosalie O'Connnoi

ABT premiered *Onegin* on June 1, 2001, at the Metropolitan Opera House with Julie Kent as Tatiana and Robert Hill as Onegin.

"There are times when everything comes together magically in a performance. It can't be planned for. Somehow the chemistry is just right, or perhaps the stars are in perfect alignment. Such was the case on Wednesday afternoon when American Ballet Theatre presented John Cranko's 'Eugene Onegin' at the Metropolitan Opera House."

—Jennifer Dunning, *The New York Times*, 2002



John Cranko, renowned Choreographer and Director of the Stuttgart Ballet from 1961 until his untimely death in 1973, drew significant inspiration from the famed Russian novelist Alexander Pushkin in choreographing *Onegin*, a faithful ballet adaptation of the verse-novel. Cranko's deep understanding of storytelling makes this a profoundly passionate and powerful ballet, bringing the tale to vivid life.

In 2023, on the 50th anniversary of Cranko's death, Reid Anderson, Director of the Stuttgart Ballet from 1996-2018, and devoted caretaker of Cranko's works, said, "John was fond of repeating that a true narrative ballet is such that if the lights were dimmed and you didn't know the plot and couldn't read the program, you would still be able to understand what was happening on stage. I have heard people say that dance was not their favorite art form but after seeing this ballet, it changed their lives. For me this is the secret of dance."





provided by the Blavatnik Family Foundation, Mark Casey and Carrie Gaiser Casey, The Ted and Mary Jo Shen Charitable Gift Fund, and through an endowed gift from The Toni and Martin Sosnoff New Works Fund.

# Virginia Woolf was never just one thing. Neither is *Woolf Works*.



Wayne McGregor, Aran Bell, and Hee Seo in Woolf Works. Photo: Emma Zordan.

"Mrs. Dalloway is a beautiful story about people. It's about human relationships. It's a woven, textured story which is full of imagination and pain and beauty.

Orlando is this romp through 300 years of history and you know, as Woolf was super interested in science fiction and astronomy and things 'other,' it really suited my kind-of alien aesthetic.

And in the third piece, The Waves,

it's partly her letters and biography colliding with this phenomenal story about growing older and letting go in a way."

—Wayne McGregor, Woolf Works Choreographer, on the inspiration behind the three acts of Woolf Works

### Alessandra Ferri Returns to ABT

Seventeen years after retiring as a Principal Dancer with American Ballet Theatre, Alessandra Ferri returns once more, this time in ABT's New York Premiere of *Woolf Works*, reprising the role she originated with The Royal Ballet in the United Kingdom.

At the time of the June 2024 performances of *Woolf Works*, Ferri will be in her early 60s, well past the age that many expect a ballerina to hang up her pointe shoes. But age is just a number, a belief both Ferri and Woolf shared. Said Ferri in an interview with The Royal Ballet, "[Wayne] said to me 'I need a soul. I need the soul of Virginia Woolf.' Mrs Dalloway was my age, you know, she was a woman in her 50's. But then in her memory she was a teenager, but so am I, and so is everyone. We all have our life inside of us."



Alessandra Ferri. Photo: Lucas Chilczuk.

# The curtain may close, But the evening isn't over.

### **JUNE 25**

### Woolf Works New York Premiere Celebration

June 25 heralds the New York Premiere of *Woolf Works*. Following an evening of powerful innovation and groundbreaking dance, ABT raises a post-performance glass to this compelling new ballet. Purchase a reception ticket and gain access to this exclusive opening night celebration!

### **JUNE 28**

### Honoring Alessandra Ferri

ABT dedicates June 28 to legendary ballerina Alessandra Ferri. Join us in celebrating her unparalleled career and her remarkable contributions to the world of ballet. Following her appearance in *Woolf Works* that evening, Ferri will gather with guests and ticket holders in the Grand Tier of the Metropolitan Opera House.



Daniel Camargo in Woolf Works. Photo: Fabrizio Ferri.



Hee Seo and Calvin Royal III in Woolf Works.

Photo: Fabrizio Ferri.

Of all the great classics performed by ABT today, *Swan Lake* remains the quintessential ballet. Cursed to spend eternity as a swan, Odette, once a beautiful princess, is only able to return to her human form in the hours of darkness. To break the spell, Odette's true love must swear eternal fidelity and marry her. When she meets Prince Siegfried and falls in love, Odette has the chance to change her fate. However, von Rothbart, the evil sorcerer who cursed Odette, plots to ruin Odette and Siegfried's romance with deceit and betrayal. Set to Tchaikovsky's glorious score and featuring the unforgettable corps de ballet moving in magical unison as

majestic swans, this romantic fable of dreamlike transformation inspires awe and wonder for all.

Choreography by KEVIN McKENZIE

After MARIUS PETIPA and LEV IVANOV

Music by PETER ILYITCH TCHAIKOVSKY

JULY 1-6

This production has been generously underwritten by R. Chemers Neustein.

Catherine Hurlin in Swan Lake. Photo: Fabrizio Ferri.

# CORPS DE BALLET CELEBRATION



Isabella Boylston and Daniel Camargo with the corps de ballet in Swan Lake. Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

On July 5, the spotlight shines on our corps de ballet. This evening will celebrate the collective strength and grace of this exceptional group of individuals who are the backbone of our performances. Join us in honoring the artists who bring dedication, depth, and splendor to our ballets with tireless devotion and steadfast solidarity, and for their unforgettable contributions to each and every ballet.





"When we are out there together, we become one, breathing and moving together in synchronicity with the music guiding us. It's this feeling of becoming infinite as we dance the ballet. We see swans fly together and shift formation without words. We do that together on stage as humans. It's the closest thing to magic on this earth."

—Scout Forsythe, ABT Corps de Ballet

### AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE CORPS DE BALLET MEMBERS

Alexei Agoudine • Nastia Alexandrova • Sierra Armstrong • Alexandra Basmagy • Leah Baylin Elisabeth Beyer • Lauren Bonfiglio • Tristan Brosnan • Finnian Carmeci • Jacob Clerico Zimmi Coker • Luigi Crispino • Claire Davison • Michael de la Nuez • Cy Doherty Teresa D'Ortone • Camila Ferrera • Léa Fleytoux • Scout Forsythe • Patrick Frenette Tillie Glatz • Kiely Groenewegen • Andrii Ishchuk • Anabel Katsnelson • Kanon Kimura Erica Lall • Courtney Lavine • Melvin Lawovi • Virginia Lensi • Fangqi Li • Isadora Loyola Duncan Lyle • Elwince Magbitang • Tyler Maloney • Joseph Markey • Abbey Marrison Hannah Marshall • Cameron McCune • Duncan McIlwaine • João Menegussi Garegin Pogossian • Lauren Post • Luis Ribagorda • Rachel Richardson • Andrew Robare Jose Sebastian • Yoon Jung Seo • Courtney Shealy • Kento Sumitani • Eric Tamm Ingrid Thoms • Olivia Tweedy • Alejandro Valera Outlaw • Nathan Vendt • Aleisha Walker Paulina Waski • Kotomi Yamada • Remy Young

# DAZZLING DEBUTS IN SWAN LAKE







American Ballet Theatre's 2024 Swan Lake engagement at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts from February 21–25 saw three exceptional debuts from three extrordinary dancers. Chloe Misseldine danced a stunning performance of Odette/Odile with Aran Bell as her Prince Siegfried, while Jake Roxander and Joseph Markey made their debuts as Benno and Ballroom von Rothbart respectively. All three dancers will go on to perform these roles at the Metropolitan Opera House during the 2024 Summer season.



Photo Credits (Top L to R): Jake Roxander in Swan Lake. Photo: Emma Zordan.; Chloe Misseldine in Swan Lake. Photo: Emma Zordan.; Olioe Misseldine in Swan Lake. Photo: Emma Zordan. (Bottom): Chloe Misseldine in Swan Lake. Photo: Emma Zordan.

Photo Credits (L to R): Courtney Lavine and João Menegussi in Swan Lake. Photo: Rosalie O'Connnor.; Scene from Swan Lake. Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.



ABT premiered MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet* on January 3, 1985, at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. with Leslie Browne performing the role of Juliet and Robert La Fosse performing the role of Romeo.

"Browne claimed Juliet for her own with a passionate, imaginative performance that avoided nearly every cliche of ballerina lyricism and sentimentality. The tomb scene, with her heartbreaking smile when she saw Romeo sprawled on the floor—as if she thought that he, too, might be just sleeping—was especially individual and truthful. Browne danced skillfully, forcefully—with no attempt to appear delicate."

—Lewis Segal, Los Angeles Times, 1985



In 2023 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, ABT Principal Dancer Catherine Hurlin made her debut as Juliet, with fellow Principal Calvin Royal III as her Romeo.

Royal himself had been slated to make his Romeo debut opposite Misty Copeland at the Metropolitan Opera House during the 2020 Spring season. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the season was canceled, and his debut was delayed for two years. Finally, in 2022, paired with Christine Shevchenko, he graced the Met stage as Romeo in a long-awaited and much anticipated debut performance.



American Ballet Theatre's performances of *Romeo and Juliet* are generously underwritten through an endowed gift from Ali and Monica Wambold.

Catherine Hurlin and Calvin Royal III in Romeo and Juliet. Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

Choreography by CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON Music by JOBY TALBOT Orchestrations by BEN FOSKETT

JULY 16-2

Two-time Tony Award® winner Christopher Wheeldon's full-length ballet *Like Water for Chocolate* brings the magical realism of the famous modern Mexican novel and award-winning film of the same name to ABT.

Journey into Laura Esquivel's acclaimed and captivating family saga where the central character Tita, bound by family duty and tradition, falls in forbidden love with her neighbor Pedro. When her emotions spill over into her cooking, her only form of expression, everyone around her is influenced in startling and dramatic ways. With masterfully crafted scenes and passionately amorous pas de deux, *Like Water for Chocolate* is a thrilling co-production with The Royal Ballet.

Leadership support of ABT's New Works Initiative is provided by the Blavatnik Family Foundation, Mark Casey and Carrie Gaiser Casey, The Ted and Mary Jo Shen Charitable Gift Fund, and through an endowed gift from The Toni and Martin Sosnoff New Works Fund.

Cassandra Trenary and Herman Cornejo in Like Water for Chocolate. Photo: Emma Zordan.

SunMi Park and Daniel Camargo in Like Water for Chocolate. Photo: Marty Sohl.

Christopher Wheeldon's Like Water for Chocolate dazzled audiences in 2023 during its North American Premiere in Costa Mesa, California, before receiving its New York Premiere at the Metropolitan Opera House during ABT's Summer season. Four leading casts made their debuts including Cassandra Trenary and Herman Cornejo, SunMi Park and Daniel Camargo, Devon Teuscher and Joo Won Ahn, and Skylar Brandt and Carlos Gonzalez. ABT was incredibly proud to be joined by Laura Esquivel, author of the book, as well as Alondra de la Parra, acclaimed Mexican conductor and Music Consultant to the ballet's composer Joby Talbot, who conducted its first performance during ABT's 2023 Summer season run.



Devon Teuscher and Joo Won Ahn in Like Water for Chocolate, Photo: Kyle Froman



Skylar Brandt and Carlos Gonzalez in Like Water for Chocolate Photo: Rosalie O'Connor



Alondra de la Parra (center) taking a bow with the Company at the New York Premiere of Like Water for Chocolate at the Metropolitan Opera House. Photo: Rosalie O'Connor.

# 25 Years with American Ballet Theatre HERMAN CORNEJO

American Ballet Theatre's series of post-performance celebrations culminates on July 19 as we honor Herman Cornejo's illustrious 25-year journey with ABT. To toast to his unwavering dedication, his remarkable achievements, and the indelible mark he continues to leave on the ballet world, purchase a reception ticket and join us for one last gathering at the Metropolitan Opera House Grand Tier.

Herman Cornejo joined ABT in 1999 and was promoted to Soloist in 2000. Only three short years later he was promoted to Principal Dancer, where he has been one of the Company's most recognizable and beloved leading men ever since.

"Reflecting on these 25 years, I realize it's an ongoing, outstanding journey, a dream come true with no predetermined end. There are still ballets I aspire to perform, and I continue to find joy in dancing the classics with my incredible partners. Here's to many more years ahead!"









Fancy Free. Photo: Rosalie O'Conno

| *ALL CASTING SUBJECT TO CHANGE*  JUNE 17  No Performance  JUNE 24  No Performance | JUNE 18 Opening Night Toast  7:30 P.M. Onegin Teuscher Camargo  JUNE 25 New York Premiere Celebration  7:30 P.M. Woolf Works Ferri | JUNE 19 2:00 P.M. Onegin Shevchenko Stearns  JUNE 26 2:00 P.M. Woolf Works Murphy | JUNE 19 7:30 P.M. Onegin Seo Whiteside  JUNE 26 Pride Night 7:30 P.M. Woolf Works Teuscher | JUNE 20 7:30 P.M. Onegin Misseldine Forster  JUNE 27 7:30 P.M. Woolf Works Seo           | JUNE 21 7:30 P.M. Onegin Teuscher Camargo  JUNE 28 Honoring Alessandra Ferri 7:30 P.M. Woolf Works Ferri | JUNE 22 11:00 A.M. ABTKIDS 2:00 P.M. Onegin Seo Whiteside  JUNE 29 2:00 P.M. Woolf Works Seo | JUNE 22 7:30 P.M. Onegin Shevchenko Stearns  JUNE 29 7:30 P.M. Woolf Works Murphy |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| JULY 1 7:30 P.M. Swan Lake Boylston Camargo                                       | JULY 2 7:30 P.M. Swan Lake  Murphy Forster   | JULY 3 2:00 P.M. Swan Lake Misseldine Bell  | JULY 3 7:30 P.M. <b>Swan Lake</b> Seo Stearns  | JULY 4 Independence Day Performance time change*  *2:00 P.M. Swan Lake  Hurlin Whiteside | JULY 5 Corps de Ballet Celebration 7:30 P.M. Swan Lake Shevchenko Royal                                  | JULY 6<br>2:00 P.M.<br><b>Swan Lake</b><br>Teuscher<br>Ahn                                   | JULY 6<br>7:30 P.M.<br><b>Swan Lake</b><br>Brandt<br>Cornejo                      |
| JULY 8<br>No Performance  | JULY 9 7:30 P.M. Romeo and Juliet  Teuscher Bell   | JULY 10<br>2:00 P.M.<br><b>Romeo and Juliet</b><br>Shevchenko<br>Forster          | JULY 10<br>7:30 P.M.<br><b>Romeo and Juliet</b><br>Trenary<br>Cornejo                      | JULY 11<br>7:30 P.M.<br><b>Romeo and Juliet</b><br>Boylston<br>Camargo                   | JULY 12<br>7:30 P.M.<br><b>Romeo and Juliet</b><br>Murphy<br>Whiteside                                   | JULY 13 2:00 P.M.  Romeo and Juliet  Seo Stearns   | JULY 13 7:30 P.M.  Romeo and Juliet  Hurlin Royal                                 |
| JULY 15<br>No Performance   | JULY 16 7:30 P.M. Like Water For Chocolate  Trenary Cornejo  | JULY 17 2:00 P.M. Like Water For Chocolate  Teuscher Ahn                          | JULY 17 7:30 P.M. Like Water For Chocolate  Park Camargo                                   | JULY 18 7:30 P.M. Like Water For Chocolate  Brandt Gonzalez                              | JULY 19 Herman Cornejo 25th Anniversary 7:30 P.M. Like Water For Chocolate Trenary Cornejo               | JULY 20 2:00 P.M. Like Water For Chocolate  Park Camargo                                     | JULY 20 7:30 P.M. Like Water For Chocolate  Teuscher Ahn                          |
| Devon Teuscher and Cory Stearn  | ns in Onegin. Hee Seo and  | d Aran Bell in Woolf Works.   | Scene from Swan Lake.  |  | stine Shevchenko and Calvin Roya<br>deo and Juliet.  | Cassandra Trenan Like Water for Cho  |   |

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

WEDNESDAY MAT. WEDNESDAY EVE.

TUESDAY

MONDAY

SATURDAY EVE.

SATURDAY MAT.

# AMERICAN (BALLET THEATRE

890 Broadway, New York, NY 10003

Single Tickets on Sale April 22, 2024 For more information, visit ABT.ORG

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