



AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

CONTACT:
Kelly Ryan
212-477-3030 ext. 3235
kryan@abt.org
Susie Morgan Taylor
212-477-3030 ext. 3276
staylor@abt.org

PRESS RELEASE

**NEW YORK PREMIERE OF ALEXEI RATMANSKY'S
OF LOVE AND RAGE TO HIGHLIGHT
AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE'S 80th ANNIVERSARY
SPRING SEASON AT THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE,
MAY 11–JULY 4, 2020**

**80th ANNIVERSARY SEASON TO OPEN WITH “ABT THEN AND NOW”
FEATURING WORKS BY GEORGE BALANCHINE, JESSICA LANG,
JEROME ROBBINS, TWYLA THARP AND ANTONY TUDOR
AND 40th ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCES OF
LA BAYADÈRE TO HONOR LEGENDARY BALLERINA NATALIA MAKAROVA**

**STELLA ABRERA TO GIVE FAREWELL PERFORMANCE IN *GISELLE*,
SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 13**

**NATALIA OSIPOVA, OLGA SMIRNOVA AND KIMIN KIM TO APPEAR AS
GUESTS ARTISTS FOR THE SEASON**

American Ballet Theatre will celebrate its 80th Anniversary during the 2020 Spring season at the Metropolitan Opera House with the New York Premiere of Alexei Ratmansky's *Of Love and Rage*, an opening week devoted to both new and historic works from the Company's repertory, and the 40th Anniversary performances of Natalia Makarova's production of *La Bayadère*. The Spring season was announced today by Artistic Director Kevin McKenzie.

Principal Dancers for the 2020 Metropolitan Opera House season include Stella Abrera, Isabella Boylston, Misty Copeland, Herman Cornejo, David Hallberg, Sarah Lane, Gillian Murphy, Hee Seo, Christine Shevchenko, Daniil Simkin, Cory Stearns, Devon Teuscher and James Whiteside. Guest Artists for the season include Natalia Osipova, principal dancer with The Royal Ballet, Olga Smirnova, principal dancer with Bolshoi Ballet, and Kimin Kim, principal dancer with Mariinsky Theater.

80th Anniversary – *ABTomorrow* Spring Gala

American Ballet Theatre will celebrate its 80th Anniversary with the *ABTomorrow* Spring Gala, a special evening celebrating eight decades of artistry including a showcase of student talent

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representing ABT's artistic future. The *ABTomorrow* Spring Gala will highlight the Company's past and future with anniversary video tributes, excerpts from beloved classics including *Swan Lake*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *La Bayadère*, a preview of Alexei Ratmansky's 2020 premiere of *Of Love and Rage* and a special performance by students of the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School.

A Gala dinner-dance on the Promenade of the David H. Koch Theater will follow the performance. For more information on ABT's 80th Anniversary *ABTomorrow* Spring Gala, please call the Special Events Office at 212-477-3030, ext. 3242.

“ABT Then and Now”

American Ballet Theatre will open its Spring season on May 11 with a week of repertory programs representing the Company's heritage and its most recent commissions. Four performances of “ABT Then,” will comprise works premiered by Ballet Theatre in the 1940s, including George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations* (1947), Antony Tudor's *Jardin aux Lilas* (1940) and Jerome Robbins's *Fancy Free* (1944). Four performances of “ABT Now,” beginning Tuesday, May 12, will present works premiered by ABT over the past year. They include Jessica Lang's *Garden Blue*, Twyla Tharp's *A Gathering of Ghosts* and Alexei Ratmansky's *The Seasons*.

New York Premiere – *Of Love and Rage*

The New York Premiere of Alexei Ratmansky's *Of Love and Rage* is set for Tuesday evening, June 2, 2020. Based on the first century historical romance novel *Callirhoe* by Chariton, *Of Love and Rage* tells the story of star-crossed lovers Callirhoe and Chaereas in ancient Greece. The ballet will be set to music by Aram Khachaturian, arranged by Philip Feeney, and will feature sets and costumes by Jean-Marc Puissant and lighting by Duane Schuler. *Of Love and Rage*, Ratmansky's 17th work for American Ballet Theatre, will have its World Premiere on March 5, 2020 at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California. The ballet will be given seven performances at the Metropolitan Opera House through June 6.

***La Bayadère* – 40th Anniversary Performances**

Four performances of *La Bayadère* will begin on Tuesday evening, May 19 with Isabella Boylston (Nikiya), Herman Cornejo (Solor) and Cassandra Trenary (Gamzatti) leading the opening night

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cast. The performance on Thursday evening, May 21 will honor choreographer and legendary ballerina Natalia Makarova on the occasion of ABT's 40th Anniversary of the ballet. Guest Artists Olga Smirnova and Kimin Kim, along with ABT Principal Dancer Gillian Murphy, will lead the cast for the anniversary evening. The full-evening production of *La Bayadère* was conceived, directed and choreographed by Makarova, after Marius Petipa. The ballet is set to music by Ludwig Minkus, arranged by John Lanchbery, and features scenery by PierLuigi Samaritani, costumes by Theoni V. Aldredge and lighting by Toshiro Ogawa. Dina Makarova serves as production coordinator. Natalia Makarova first staged "The Kingdom of the Shades" scene for ABT in 1974 and subsequently produced and choreographed the complete version (in three acts) for ABT in 1980. The World Premiere of Makarova's production was given on May 21 of that year performed by Makarova (Nikiya), Anthony Dowell (Solor) and Cynthia Harvey (Gamzatti).

Full-Length Ballets

Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet* will be given eleven performances beginning Friday evening, May 22 with Stella Abrera and James Whiteside in the title roles. Guest Artist Natalia Osipova will dance the role of Juliet on Monday, May 25 opposite David Hallberg as Romeo. Set to the score by Sergei Prokofiev, *Romeo and Juliet* features scenery and costumes by Nicholas Georgiadis and lighting by Thomas Skelton. *Romeo and Juliet* received its World Premiere by The Royal Ballet in London on February 9, 1965 and was given its ABT Company Premiere at The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. on January 3, 1985 with Leslie Browne and Robert La Fosse in the leading roles.

Hee Seo (Giselle), Cory Stearns (Albrecht) and Devon Teuscher (Myrta) will lead the first of eight performances of *Giselle* beginning Monday evening, June 8. Guest Artist Natalia Osipova will perform the title role opposite David Hallberg as Albrecht on Thursday, June 11. Stella Abrera, a Principal Dancer with American Ballet Theatre since 2015, will give her farewell performance with the Company in the title role of *Giselle* on Saturday evening, June 13, dancing opposite James Whiteside as Albrecht and Gillian Murphy as Myrta.

Set to music by Adolphe Adam, with scenery by Gianni Quaranta, costumes by Anna Anni and lighting by Jennifer Tipton, *Giselle* features choreography after Jean Coralli, Jules Perrot and Marius Petipa and has been staged for ABT by Artistic Director Kevin McKenzie. The world premiere of *Giselle*, one of

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the oldest continually-performed ballets, occurred at the Theatre de l'Academie Royale de Musique in Paris on June 28, 1841. The ballet was first presented by ABT (then Ballet Theatre) at the Center Theatre in New York City on January 12, 1940 with choreography by Anton Dolin and scenery and costumes by Lucinda Ballard. The leading roles were danced by Annabelle Lyon and Anton Dolin. American Ballet Theatre's sixth production, featuring scenery by Gianni Quaranta and costumes by Anna Anni, was created for the film *Dancers*, produced in 1987 by Cannon Films. This production's first public performance was given on March 20, 1987 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California, with Marianna Tcherkassky as Giselle and Kevin McKenzie as Albrecht. The current staging is by McKenzie, using the Quaranta and Anni designs.

The Sleeping Beauty will be given eight performances beginning Monday, June 15 with Isabella Boylston and James Whiteside in the leading roles. Set to the classic score by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky, *The Sleeping Beauty* has choreography by Marius Petipa and staging and additional choreography by Alexei Ratmansky, with assistance by Tatiana Ratmansky. The production features scenery and costumes by Tony Award®-winning designer Richard Hudson. Hudson's designs are based on the historic work of Léon Bakst, who created a seminal version of *The Sleeping Beauty* for Serge Diaghilev's Ballets Russes in 1921. *The Sleeping Beauty* received its World Premiere on March 3, 2015 at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California, danced by Diana Vishneva (Princess Aurora) and Marcelo Gomes (Prince Désiré).

Jane Eyre, choreographed by Cathy Marston, will be given five performances beginning Monday, June 22 with Devon Teuscher in the title role and James Whiteside as Rochester. The ballet features choreography and direction by Marston, music compiled and composed by Philip Feeney, scenery and costumes by Patrick Kinmonth and lighting by Brad Fields. *Jane Eyre* received its American Premiere by American Ballet Theatre on June 4, 2019 at the Metropolitan Opera House with Devon Teuscher in the title role and James Whiteside as Rochester. The production received its World Premiere by Northern Ballet on May 19, 2016 at the Cast Theatre in Doncaster, England performed by Dreda Blow as Jane Eyre and Javier Torres as Rochester. *Jane Eyre* is a co-production with The Joffrey Ballet and was staged for ABT by Jenny Tattersall and Daniel de Andrade.

Ten performances of *Swan Lake*, choreographed by Kevin McKenzie after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, will round out the season, Friday, June 26 through Saturday matinee, July 4. The opening night cast on June 26 will be led by Hee Seo as Odette-Odile and Aran Bell as Prince Siegfried.

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Swan Lake features scenery and costumes by Zack Brown and lighting by Duane Schuler. This production of *Swan Lake* premiered on March 24, 2000 at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. with Julie Kent (Odette-Odile), Angel Corella (Prince Siegfried) and Marcelo Gomes (von Rothbart).

ABTKids 80th Anniversary Edition

A special 80th Anniversary version of *ABTKids* comes to the Metropolitan Opera House on Saturday, May 16, 2020 at 11:00 AM. The 2020 *ABTKids* offers young audience members, ages 4–12, and their families a unique journey through the Company’s eight decades, with performances and activities themed to ABT’s history. The one-hour narrated program will present excerpts of ABT’s vast repertory from the 1940s through to the present. All seats for *ABTKids* are \$25.

Subscriptions for American Ballet Theatre’s 2020 Spring season at the Metropolitan Opera House, on sale beginning Wednesday, October 30 at 12 Noon, are available by phone at 212-362-6000, or online at ABT’s website www.abt.org.

***Of Love and Rage* and *The Seasons* are a part of The Ratmansky Project. Leadership support for The Ratmansky Project has been provided by Avery and Andrew F. Barth, the Blavatnik Family Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton E. James, and The Ted and Mary Jo Shen Charitable Gift Fund.**

***Jardin aux Lilas* has been generously underwritten by Marjorie S. Isaac.**

***Fancy Free* is generously underwritten by an endowed gift from Avery and Andrew F. Barth, in honor of Laima and Rudolf Barth.**

***Garden Blue* is a part of the ABT Women’s Movement. Champion support for the ABT Women’s Movement is provided by Jenna Segal. Additional Leadership support provided by Denise Littlefield Sobel, the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, and through an endowed gift from The Toni and Martin Sosnoff New Works Fund.**

***La Bayadère* is generously sponsored by an endowed gift from Drs. Philip and Marjorie Gerdine.**

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

American Ballet Theatre’s performances of *Giselle* are generously supported through an endowed gift from Sharon Patrick.

ABT gratefully acknowledges the Lead Sponsor of *The Sleeping Beauty*, David H. Koch. Additional Leadership Support is generously provided by the Lloyd E. Rigler – Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation.

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Leadership support of *Jane Eyre*, part of the ABT Women’s *Movement*, is provided by The Leila and Mickey Straus Family Foundation. Champion support for the ABT Women’s *Movement* is provided by Jenna Segal. This production is generously supported through an endowed gift from the Toni and Martin Sosnoff New Works Fund.

Swan Lake has been generously underwritten by R. Chemers Neustein.

American Airlines is the Official Airline of American Ballet Theatre.

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ABT is supported, in part, with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

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Thursday, October 24, 2019

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Metropolitan Opera House 2020

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY MAT.	WEDNESDAY EVE.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY MAT.	SATURDAY EVE.
Week 1	11-May <i>ABT Then</i> Theme and Variations Jardin aux Lilas Fancy Free	12-May <i>ABT Now</i> Garden Blue A Gathering of Ghosts The Seasons	13-May <i>ABT Then</i> Theme and Variations Jardin aux Lilas Fancy Free	13-May <i>ABT Now</i> Garden Blue A Gathering of Ghosts The Seasons	14-May <i>ABT Now</i> Garden Blue A Gathering of Ghosts The Seasons	15-May <i>ABT Then</i> Theme and Variations Jardin aux Lilas Fancy Free	<i>ABTKids</i> 16-May <i>ABT Then</i> Theme and Variations Jardin aux Lilas Fancy Free	16-May <i>ABT Now</i> Garden Blue A Gathering of Ghosts The Seasons
Week 2	18-May 80th ANNIVERSARY GALA	19-May La BAYADÈRE Boylston Cornejo Trenary	20-May La BAYADÈRE Teuscher Stearns Shevchenko	20-May La BAYADÈRE Seo Bell Hurlin	<u>40th ANNIVERSARY</u> 21-May La BAYADÈRE Smirnova Kim Murphy	22-May ROMEO and JULIET Abrera Whiteside	23-May ROMEO and JULIET Trenary Cornejo	23-May ROMEO and JULIET Copeland Royal
Week 3	<i>MEMORIAL DAY</i> 25-May ROMEO and JULIET Osipova Hallberg	26-May ROMEO and JULIET Seo Stearns	27-May ROMEO and JULIET Teuscher Bell	27-May ROMEO and JULIET Copeland Royal	28-May ROMEO and JULIET Lane Gorak	29-May ROMEO and JULIET Murphy Whiteside	30-May ROMEO and JULIET Boylston Forster	30-May ROMEO and JULIET Teuscher Bell
Week 4	1-Jun <i>No Performance</i>	2-Jun OF LOVE AND RAGE TBA	3-Jun OF LOVE AND RAGE TBA	3-Jun OF LOVE AND RAGE TBA	4-Jun OF LOVE AND RAGE TBA	5-Jun OF LOVE AND RAGE TBA	6-Jun OF LOVE AND RAGE TBA	6-Jun OF LOVE AND RAGE TBA

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	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY MAT.	WEDNESDAY EVE.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY MAT.	SATURDAY EVE.
Week 5	8-Jun GISELLE Seo Stearns Teuscher	9-Jun GISELLE Copeland Cornejo Williams	10-Jun GISELLE Shevchenko Royal Hurlin	10-Jun GISELLE Murphy Forster Williams	11-Jun GISELLE Osipova Hallberg Teuscher	12-Jun GISELLE Boylston Bell Hurlin	13-Jun GISELLE Lane Simkin Shevchenko	<u>ABRERA FAREWELL</u> 13-Jun GISELLE Abrera Whiteside Murphy
Week 6	15-Jun The SLEEPING BEAUTY Boylston Whiteside	16-Jun The SLEEPING BEAUTY Trenary Gorak	17-Jun The SLEEPING BEAUTY Hurlin Forster	17-Jun The SLEEPING BEAUTY Lane TBA	18-Jun The SLEEPING BEAUTY Boylston Whiteside	19-Jun The SLEEPING BEAUTY Seo Bell	20-Jun The SLEEPING BEAUTY Brandt TBA	20-Jun The SLEEPING BEAUTY Trenary Gorak
Week 7	22-Jun JANE EYRE Teuscher Whiteside	23-Jun JANE EYRE Copeland Stearns	24-Jun JANE EYRE Teuscher Whiteside	24-Jun JANE EYRE Boylston Forster	25-Jun JANE EYRE Copeland Stearns	26-Jun SWAN LAKE Seo Bell	27-Jun SWAN LAKE Shevchenko Forster	27-Jun SWAN LAKE Murphy Whiteside
Week 8	29-Jun SWAN LAKE Boylston Ahn	30-Jun SWAN LAKE Copeland Cornejo	1-Jul SWAN LAKE Murphy Whiteside	1-Jul SWAN LAKE Seo Bell	2-Jul SWAN LAKE Shevchenko Forster	3-Jul SWAN LAKE Teuscher Stearns	<i>INDEPENDENCE DAY</i> 4-Jul SWAN LAKE Copeland Cornejo	4-Jul <i>No Performance</i>

Casting and programs subject to change.

Monday through Friday evenings @ 7:30 PM
 Wednesday and Saturday matinees @ 2:00 PM
 Saturday evenings @ 8:00 PM