



AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

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PRESS RELEASE

**WORLD PREMIERE BY TWYLA THARP
IN HONOR OF HERMAN CORNEJO'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY
TO HIGHLIGHT AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE'S 2019 FALL SEASON
AT THE DAVID H. KOCH THEATER, OCTOBER 16-27**

**FALL SEASON TO CELEBRATE ABT CHOREOGRAPHERS PAST AND PRESENT
WITH WORLD PREMIERE BY GEMMA BOND, NEW YORK PREMIERE OF
JESSICA LANG'S *LET ME SING FOREVERMORE*
AND REVIVALS OF GEORGE BALANCHINE'S *APOLLO*
AND CLARK TIPPET'S *SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED***

FAMILY FRIENDLY MATINEE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

BOX OFFICE TO OPEN JULY 22

World Premieres by Twyla Tharp and Gemma Bond will highlight American Ballet Theatre's 2019 Fall season at the David H. Koch Theater, October 16-27. The season was announced today by Artistic Director Kevin McKenzie.

Principal Dancers for the 2019 Fall season include Stella Abrera, Isabella Boylston, Misty Copeland, Herman Cornejo, Sarah Lane, Alban Lendorf, Hee Seo, Christine Shevchenko, Cory Stearns, Devon Teuscher and James Whiteside.

The Company will present a program of works in honor of Principal Dancer Herman Cornejo on his 20th Anniversary with American Ballet Theatre. This special celebration on Saturday evening, October 26 will include Cornejo in works by George Balanchine and Tharp.

Fall Gala and World Premieres

American Ballet Theatre's Fall season will open with a Gala performance on Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30 PM. Lisa Lutoff-Perlo, President and CEO of Celebrity Cruises® will be the Fall Gala honoree. The evening will feature a performance by students of the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School, the World Premiere of a new

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work by Twyla Tharp, Jessica Lang's *Let Me Sing Forevermore* and George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*.

The new Tharp work, created for Herman Cornejo and ABT Company members, will be given its World Premiere at the opening night gala on Wednesday evening, October 16. Tharp's new ballet, her 17th for ABT, will be set to String Quintet No. 2 in G major, Op. 111 by Johannes Brahms with lighting by Jennifer Tipton. The work will be given five performances during the season.

A World Premiere work by ABT corps de ballet member Gemma Bond is scheduled for Wednesday evening, October 23. Set to Benjamin Britten's *Suite on English Folk Tunes* for orchestra, Bond's first work for ABT will feature costumes by Sylvie Rood and lighting by Serena Wong. The new work will be given three performances during the Fall season.

The New York Premiere of Jessica Lang's *Let Me Sing Forevermore* is set to a medley of songs recorded by Tony Bennett. A pas de deux with costumes by Bradon McDonald, *Let Me Sing Forevermore* received its World Premiere on March 23, 2019 at the Erik Bruhn Competition in Toronto, Canada performed by Catherine Hurlin and Aran Bell.

Revivals

The 2019 Fall season will feature revivals of George Balanchine's *Apollo* and Clark Tippet's *Some Assembly Required*.

Apollo, choreographed by Balanchine and set to music by Igor Stravinsky, will have its Revival Premiere on Friday evening, October 18. The ballet was given its world premiere by Serge Diaghilev's Ballets Russes at the Theatre Sarah Bernhardt, Paris on June 12, 1928. The ballet received its first American performance by Ballet Theatre at The Metropolitan Opera House, New York on April 27, 1937. *Apollo* was first performed by American Ballet Theatre on April 25, 1943 at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York with André Eglevsky as Apollo, Vera Zorina as Terpsichore, Nora Kaye as Polyhymnia

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and Rosella Hightower as Calliope. Staged for ABT by Victoria Simon, *Apollo* was last performed by the Company in 2012.

Clark Tippet's *Some Assembly Required* will be revived for the 2019 Fall season for four performances beginning Friday evening, October 18. Set to William Bolcom's Second Sonata for Violin and Piano, the ballet features costumes by Gary Lisz and original lighting by Jennifer Tipton. *Some Assembly Required* received its World Premiere by American Ballet Theatre on April 14, 1989 at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D. C., performed by Amanda McKerrow and John Gardner. Staged for ABT by McKerrow and Gardner, the ballet was last performed by the Company in 2009.

Returning Repertory

Theme and Variations, created by George Balanchine for Ballet Theatre in 1947, will be given five performances beginning October 16. Set to music by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky ("Theme and Variations" from Suite No. 3 for Orchestra), *Theme and Variations* has costumes and scenery by Zack Brown. *Theme and Variations*, which was last performed by ABT in 2015, received its World Premiere at New York's City Center on November 26, 1947, danced by Alicia Alonso and Igor Youskevitch.

Alexei Ratmansky's *The Seasons* returns for three performances beginning Thursday, October 17. Set to *The Seasons* by Alexander Glazunov, the ballet features costumes by Robert Perdziola and lighting by Mark Stanley. *The Seasons*, Ratmansky's 16th ballet for ABT, received its World Premiere on May 20, 2019 at the Metropolitan Opera House.

Jessica Lang's *Garden Blue* will be given three performances beginning Wednesday, October 23. The ballet is set to Piano Trio No. 4 in E Minor "Dumky," Movements 1, 2 and 3 by Antonín Dvořák, with scenery and costumes by American artist Sarah Crowner and lighting by Nicole Pearce. *Garden Blue* received its World Premiere on October 19, 2018 at the David H. Koch Theater in New York City.

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Twyla Tharp's *Deuce Coupe* will be given five performances during the Fall season beginning Friday, October 18. Set to music by The Beach Boys, *Deuce Coupe* features scenery and costumes by Santo Loquasto, after original costume design by Scott Barrie and original scenics by United Graffiti Artists, and lighting by Jennifer Tipton. *Deuce Coupe* was given its World Premiere in 1973 by The Joffrey Ballet at the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, Illinois and received its ABT Company Premiere on May 30, 2019 at the Metropolitan Opera House.

Dream within a Dream (deferred), created by Michelle Dorrance for ABT in 2018, will return for three performances beginning Wednesday, October 23. Set to music by Duke Ellington, the ballet features costumes by Linda Cho and lighting by Brad Fields. A co-commission with the Vail Dance Festival, *Dream within a Dream (deferred)* received its World Premiere on October 17, 2018 at the David H. Koch Theater in New York City.

Family Friendly Matinee

A special matinee on Saturday, October 26 will feature family friendly programming including ABT Studio Company in *Interchangeable Text* by Gemma Bond and season works by George Balanchine, Jessica Lang and Twyla Tharp. Children (ages 6-18) receive a 50% discount off tickets with the purchase of a full-priced adult ticket.

Tickets for American Ballet Theatre's 2019 Fall season at the David H. Koch Theater go on sale beginning July 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM. Tickets priced from \$30 are available online, at the Koch Theatre box office or by phone at 212-496-0600. Performance-only tickets for the Opening Night Gala begin at \$35. The David H. Koch Theater is located at Lincoln Center, Broadway and 63rd Street in New York City. For more information, please visit ABT's website at www.abt.org.

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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. Additional support has been provided by Dr. Joan Taub Ades, Linda Allard, Sarah Arison, Steven Backes, Mark Casey and Carrie Gaiser Casey, Lisa and Dick Cashin, The Susan and Leonard Feinstein Foundation, Linda and Martin Fell, Vicki Netter Fitzgerald, William J. Gillespie, Brian J. Heidtke, Caroline and Edward Hyman, The Marjorie S. Isaac/Irving H. Isaac Fund, Robin Chemers Neustein, Howard S. Paley, Pearl T. Maxim Trust, Lloyd E. Rigler – Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation, Bernard L. Schwartz, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, John Leland Sills and Elizabeth Papadopoulos-Sills, Melissa A. Smith, The H. Russell Smith Foundation/Stewart R. Smith and Robin A. Ferracone, Martin and Toni Sosnoff Foundation, Sutton Stracke, and Sedgwick Ward.

Champion support for ABT Women’s *Movement* is provided by Jenna Segal. Additional support provided by Mark Casey and Carrie Gaiser Casey, Donna and Richard Esteves, Margee and John Falk, Janine and J. Tomilson Hill, the National Endowment for the Arts, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Denise Littlefield Sobel, The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, Elizabeth Yntema, and through an endowed gift from The Toni and Martin Sosnoff New Works Fund.

***Theme and Variations* is generously underwritten through an endowed gift from Mr. and Mrs. John C. Sites, Jr.**

***Deuce Coupe* is generously supported through an endowed gift from The Toni and Martin Sosnoff New Works Fund.**

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Thursday, June 27, 2019

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