



AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

**WORLD PREMIERE OF NEW WORK BY ALEXEI RATMANSKY
AND COMPANY PREMIERES OF *DEUCE COUPE* BY
TWYLA THARP AND *JANE EYRE* BY CATHY MARSTON
TO HIGHLIGHT AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE'S
2019 SPRING SEASON, MAY 13–JULY 6, 2019,
AT METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE**

**ROBERTO BOLLE TO GIVE FAREWELL PERFORMANCE
WITH ABT ON JUNE 20**

BROOKLYN MACK TO APPEAR AS GUEST ARTIST

BOX OFFICE OPENS SUNDAY, MARCH 24 AT NOON

American Ballet Theatre's 2019 Spring season at the Metropolitan Opera House, May 13–July 6, will feature a World Premiere work by ABT Artist in Residence Alexei Ratmansky in programs dedicated entirely to his works in honor of the choreographer's 10th year with the Company. The eight-week season will also include the Company Premieres of *Deuce Coupe* by Twyla Tharp and the full-length *Jane Eyre* by Cathy Marston. Tickets for ABT's 2019 Spring season at the Metropolitan Opera House go on sale at the box office on Sunday, March 24 at 12 Noon.

Principal Dancers for the 2019 Metropolitan Opera House season are Stella Abrera, Roberto Bolle, Isabella Boylston, Misty Copeland, Herman Cornejo, David Hallberg, Sarah Lane, Hee Seo, Christine Shevchenko, Daniil Simkin, Cory Stearns, Devon Teuscher and James Whiteside. Brooklyn Mack will appear as a Guest Artist during the Spring season.

2019 Spring Gala Performance and World Premiere

American Ballet Theatre's 2019 Spring Gala on Monday evening, May 20 will pay tribute to the 10th Anniversary year of Alexei Ratmansky as ABT Artist in Residence. Ratmansky, who was named ABT's first Artist in Residence in 2009, has created 15

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works for the Company. To celebrate his 10th year, the Gala evening will present the World Premiere of a new work by Ratmansky set to *The Seasons* by Alexander Glazunov, with sets and costumes designed by Robert Perdziola and lighting by Mark Stanley. For more information on ABT's 2019 Spring Gala, please call the Special Events Office at 212-477-3030, ext. 3311.

Ratmansky Trio Program and Full-Lengths

An all-Ratmansky program of repertory works is scheduled for four performances, May 21–23. In addition to the World Premiere work, the Ratmansky Trio will include *On the Dnieper* (2009), Ratmansky's first work of repertory for the Company, and *Songs of Bukovina* (2017), his most recent.

On the Dnieper, set to a score of the same name by Sergei Prokofiev, has scenery by Simon Pastukh, costumes by Galina Solovyeva, lighting by Brad Fields and projections by Wendall K. Harrington. The opening night cast will be led by Hee Seo, Cory Stearns, Christine Shevchenko and James Whiteside. Ratmansky's production of *On the Dnieper* received its World Premiere on June 1, 2009 at the Metropolitan Opera House, performed by Veronika Part (Natalia), Marcelo Gomes (Sergei), Paloma Herrera (Olga) and David Hallberg (Olga's Fiancé). Prokofiev's score for *On the Dnieper* was originally commissioned by the Paris Opera, and the ballet received its World Premiere in 1932 by the Paris Opera Ballet. *On the Dnieper* was last performed by ABT in 2010.

Songs of Bukovina, with Isabella Boylston and Blaine Hoven leading the opening night cast, is set to music by Leonid Desyatnikov and features costumes by Moritz Junge and lighting by Brad Fields. The ballet was given its World Premiere on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at the David H. Koch Theater in New York, performed by Christine Shevchenko and Calvin Royal III, as well as April Giangeruso, Lauren Post, Katherine Williams, Stephanie Williams, Marshall Whiteley, Joo Won Ahn, Duncan Lyle and Patrick Frenette.

American Ballet Theatre's recognition of Ratmansky's work continues with performances of his full-length ballets including *Harlequinade*, *Whipped Cream* and *The Sleeping Beauty*.

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Harlequinade, staged by Ratmansky after the original by Marius Petipa, will open the Company's Spring season on Monday evening, May 13 with Isabella Boylston, James Whiteside, Stella Abrera and Thomas Forster in the leading roles. The production received its World Premiere by American Ballet Theatre on June 4, 2018, led by Isabella Boylston (Columbine), James Whiteside (Harlequin), Gillian Murphy (Pierrette) and Thomas Forster (Pierrot). A comic ballet in two acts, *Harlequinade* is set to music by Riccardo Drigo and first premiered in 1900 in St. Petersburg, Russia. Ratmansky's *Harlequinade* features sets and costumes by Robert Perdziola and lighting by Brad Fields. The ballet will be given eight performances through Saturday evening, May 18.

Whipped Cream returns to the stage of the Metropolitan Opera House for seven performances beginning Friday, May 24 featuring Daniil Simkin, Stella Abrera, Calvin Royal III and Sarah Lane in the leading roles. Choreographed by Ratmansky, the ballet features scenery and costumes by artist Mark Ryden and lighting by Brad Fields.

Whipped Cream, with a libretto and score by Richard Strauss, is based on the two-act ballet originally created as *Schlagobers*, which premiered at the Vienna State Opera in 1924. Ratmansky's production received its World Premiere by ABT on March 15, 2017 at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California danced by Daniil Simkin (The Boy), Stella Abrera (Princess Tea Flower), David Hallberg (Prince Coffee) and Sarah Lane (Princess Praline).

The Sleeping Beauty returns to the Metropolitan Opera House for the first time since 2016 for eight performances beginning Monday, July 1 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 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. Ratmansky's staging of *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). *The Sleeping Beauty* is a co-production with Teatro alla Scala.

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Company Premiere

The Company Premiere of the full-length *Jane Eyre*, choreographed by Cathy Marston, is set for Tuesday evening, June 4 with Devon Teuscher in the title role and James Whiteside as Rochester. *Jane Eyre* features choreography and direction by Marston, music compiled and composed by Philip Feeney, scenery and costumes by Patrick Kinmonth and lighting by Brad Fields. The production received its World Premiere by Northern Ballet on May 19, 2016 in Doncaster, England performed by Dreda Blow as Jane Eyre and Javier Torres as Rochester. *Jane Eyre* is a co-production with Joffrey Ballet and will be staged for ABT by Jenny Tattersall and Daniel de Andrade. Following the June 4 Company Premiere, the ballet will be given seven performances by ABT through Monday, June 10.

Company Premiere and Tharp Trio

American Ballet Theatre's 2019 Spring season will feature a Tharp Trio, May 30–June 3, to include *The Brahms-Haydn Variations*, *Deuce Coupe* and *In the Upper Room*. Twyla Tharp's 1973 hit *Deuce Coupe* will be given its Company Premiere on Thursday evening, May 30. Set to music by the Beach Boys, *Deuce Coupe* will feature scenery and costumes recreated by Santo Loquasto, after original costume design by Scott Barrie and original scenics by United Graffiti Artists. *Deuce Coupe* was given its World Premiere in 1973 by Joffrey Ballet and Twyla Tharp Dance at the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, Illinois. *Deuce Coupe* is staged for ABT by Twyla Tharp, Sara Rudner, Kara Chan, Richard Colton and Shawn Stevens.

A ballet for thirty dancers, *The Brahms-Haydn Variations*, originally entitled *Variations on a Theme by Haydn*, is set to music by the same name by Johannes Brahms and features costumes by Santo Loquasto and lighting by Jennifer Tipton, with staging by Susan Jones. *The Brahms-Haydn Variations* was given its World Premiere by American Ballet Theatre at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D. C. on Tuesday, March 21, 2000, danced by Jose Manuel Carreño, Angel Corella, Marcelo Gomes, Herman Cornejo, Maxim Beloserkovsky, Sandra Brown, Julie Kent, Paloma Herrera, Ashley Tuttle and Irina Dvorovento.

In the Upper Room is set to music by Philip Glass with costumes by Norma Kamali and lighting by Jennifer Tipton. A ballet in nine parts, *In the Upper Room* was given its World Premiere by Twyla Tharp Dance on August 28, 1986. *In the Upper Room* received its ABT Company Premiere on December 10, 1988 at the Orange County Performing Arts Center in Costa Mesa, California. The ballet will be staged for ABT by Shelley Washington, with Nancy Raffa.

Roberto Bolle Farewell and Returning Full-lengths

Eight performances of Kenneth MacMillan's *Manon* are scheduled to begin Monday, June 17 with Hee Seo in the title role, Roberto Bolle as Des Grieux, Stella Abrera as Lescaut's Mistress and James Whiteside as Lescaut. Bolle will give his farewell performance with ABT in the ballet on Thursday, June 20. Staged for ABT by Julie Lincoln and assisted by Robert Tewsley, the ballet is set to music by Jules Massenet and features scenery and costumes by Nicholas Georgiadis and lighting by Thomas F. Skelton. *Manon* was given its World Premiere by The Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London on March 7, 1974, danced by Antoinette Sibley as Manon and Anthony Dowell as Des Grieux. *Manon* received its United States premiere by The Royal Ballet at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York on May 7, 1974, danced by the same cast. The Company Premiere of the full-length *Manon* was given on May 28, 1993 at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, danced by Alessandra Ferri as Manon, Julio Bocca as Des Grieux, Gil Boggs as Lescaut, Kathleen Moore as Lescaut's Mistress, Michael Owen as Monsieur G.M., Victor Barbee as Jailer and Georgina Parkinson as Madame. *Manon* was last performed by ABT in 2014.

The season's first performance of *Le Corsaire* on Tuesday evening, June 11 will feature Skylar Brandt, Herman Cornejo, Sarah Lane, Carlos Gonzalez and Daniil Simkin in the leading roles. Guest Artist Brooklyn Mack will perform leading roles in *Le Corsaire* at the matinee on Wednesday, June 12 and on Thursday evening, June 13 and Saturday evening, June 15. Based on the Lord Byron poem "The Corsair" (1814), the ballet features choreography by Konstantin Sergeyev after Marius Petipa and staging by Anna-Marie Holmes after Petipa and Sergeyev, with music by Adolphe Adam, Césaire Pugni, Léo Delibes, Riccardo Drigo and Prince Oldenbourg. Scenery and costumes are by Irina

Tibilova, with additional costume designs by Robert Perdziola and lighting by Mary Jo Dondlinger. *Le Corsaire* received its Company Premiere by American Ballet Theatre on June 19, 1998 with Nina Ananiashvili (Medora), Ashley Tuttle (Gulnare), Giuseppe Picone (Conrad), Angel Corella (Birbanto), Jose Manuel Carreño (Ali, the slave) and Vladimir Malakhov (Lankendem). Last presented by ABT in 2017, *Le Corsaire* will be given seven performances through June 15.

Eight performances of *Swan Lake*, choreographed by Kevin McKenzie after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, will be given beginning Monday, June 24 with Hee Seo and Cory Stearns leading the opening night cast. *Swan Lake* is set to the score by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky and 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) and Angel Corella (Prince Siegfried).

ABTKids

ABTKids, American Ballet Theatre's annual one-hour introduction to ballet for families, is scheduled for Saturday morning, May 18 at 11:00 A.M. All tickets for *ABTKids* are \$25.

Individual tickets for American Ballet Theatre's 2019 Spring season at the Metropolitan Opera House, on sale beginning Sunday, March 24 at 12 Noon, are available by phone at 212-362-6000, or online at ABT's website www.abt.org.

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

Leadership support for *Harlequinade*, part of The Ratmansky Project, has been generously provided by the Blavatnik Family Foundation and The Marjorie S. Isaac/Irving H. Isaac Fund.

Leadership support for *Jane Eyre* is generously provided by The Leila and Mickey Straus Family Foundation.

Jane Eyre is part of the ABT Women's *Movement* initiative. Champion support for the ABT Women's *Movement* is provided by Jenna Segal. Leadership support has been generously provided by Denise Littlefield Sobel and the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. Additional major gifts have been provided by Mark Casey and Carrie Gaiser Casey, Donna and Richard Esteves, Margee and John Falk, The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, National Endowment for the Arts, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Elizabeth Yntema, and through an endowed gift from The Toni and Martin Sosnoff New Works Fund.

American Ballet Theatre's performances of *Le Corsaire* are generously underwritten through an endowed gift from Irene and Fred Shen.

American Ballet Theatre's performances of *Manon* were generously supported through an endowed gift from Anka K. Palitz, in memory of Clarence Y. Palitz, Jr.

On the Dnieper is generously sponsored by Leila and Mickey Straus and through an endowed gift from The Toni and Martin Sosnoff New Works Fund.

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, Lisa and Dick Cashin, Mark Casey and Carrie Gasier Casey, The Susan and Leonard Feinstein Foundation, Linda and Martin Fell, Vicki Netter Fitzgerald, William J. Gillespie, Brian J. Heidtke, The Marjorie S. Isaac/Irving H. Isaac Fund, Howard S. Paley, Pearl T. Maxim Trust, Lloyd E. Rigler – Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation, Bernard L. Schwartz, John Leland Sills and Elizabeth Papadopoulos-Sills, Melissa A. Smith, The H. Russell Smith Foundation/Stewart R. Smith and Robin A. Ferracone, The Toni and Martin Sosnoff Foundation, Sutton Stracke, and Sedgwick Ward.

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ABT's production of *Swan Lake* has been generously underwritten by R. Chemers Neustein.

Leadership support for *Whipped Cream*, part of The Ratmansky Project, has been generously provided by the Blavatnik Family Foundation and the Lloyd E. Rigler - Lawrence A. Deutsch Foundation.

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Thursday, March 14, 2019

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Metropolitan Opera House 2019

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY MAT	WEDNESDAY EVE	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY MAT	SATURDAY EVE
Week 1	13-May HARLEQUINADE Boylston Whiteside Abrera Forster	14-May HARLEQUINADE Lane Gonzalez Teuscher Royal	15-May HARLEQUINADE Trenary Maloney Shevchenko Hoven	15-May HARLEQUINADE Boylston Whiteside Abrera Forster	16-May HARLEQUINADE Brandt Simkin Seo Hammoudi	17-May HARLEQUINADE Lane Gonzalez Teuscher Royal	ABTKids 18-May HARLEQUINADE Brandt Simkin Seo Hammoudi	18-May HARLEQUINADE Trenary Maloney Shevchenko Hoven
Week 2	20-May GALA	21-May RATMANSKY TRIO Songs of Bukovina Boylston, Hoven On the Dnieper Stearns, Seo, Shevchenko, Whiteside The Seasons (World Premiere) TBA	22-May RATMANSKY TRIO Songs of Bukovina Shevchenko, Royal On the Dnieper Forster, Teuscher, Hurlin, Hammoudi The Seasons (World Premiere) TBA	22-May RATMANSKY TRIO Songs of Bukovina Boylston, Hoven On the Dnieper Stearns, Seo, Shevchenko, Whiteside The Seasons (World Premiere) TBA	23-May RATMANSKY TRIO Songs of Bukovina Shevchenko, Royal On the Dnieper Forster, Teuscher, Hurlin, Hammoudi The Seasons (World Premiere) TBA	24-May WHIPPED CREAM Simkin Abrera Royal Lane	25-May WHIPPED CREAM Maloney Seo Stearns Brandt	25-May WHIPPED CREAM Scott Boylston Whiteside Copeland
Week 3	MEMORIAL DAY 27-May WHIPPED CREAM TBA Teuscher Forster Trenary	28-May WHIPPED CREAM Simkin Abrera Royal Lane	29-May WHIPPED CREAM Scott Boylston Whiteside Copeland	29-May WHIPPED CREAM TBA Teuscher Forster Trenary	30-May THARP TRIO The Brahms-Haydn Variations TBA Deuce Coupe TBA In The Upper Room TBA	31-May THARP TRIO The Brahms-Haydn Variations TBA Deuce Coupe TBA In The Upper Room TBA	1-Jun THARP TRIO The Brahms-Haydn Variations TBA Deuce Coupe TBA In The Upper Room TBA	1-Jun THARP TRIO The Brahms-Haydn Variations TBA Deuce Coupe TBA In The Upper Room TBA
Week 4	3-Jun THARP TRIO The Brahms-Haydn Variations TBA Deuce Coupe TBA In The Upper Room TBA	4-Jun JANE EYRE Teuscher Whiteside	5-Jun JANE EYRE Copeland Stearns	5-Jun JANE EYRE Boylston Forster	6-Jun JANE EYRE Teuscher Whiteside	7-Jun JANE EYRE Copeland Stearns	8-Jun JANE EYRE Boylston Forster	8-Jun JANE EYRE Teuscher Whiteside

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	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY MAT	WEDNESDAY EVE	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY MAT	SATURDAY EVE
Week 5	10-Jun JANE EYRE Copeland Stearns	11-Jun Le CORSAIRE Brandt Cornejo Lane Gonzalez Simkin	12-Jun Le CORSAIRE Teuscher Stearns Williams Ahn Mack	12-Jun Le CORSAIRE Seo Whiteside Abrera Bell Ahn	13-Jun Le CORSAIRE Shevchenko Mack Trenary Hoven Simkin	14-Jun Le CORSAIRE Teuscher Stearns Williams Ahn Whiteside	15-Jun Le CORSAIRE Brandt Cornejo Lane Gonzalez TBA	15-Jun Le CORSAIRE Shevchenko Mack Trenary Hoven Simkin
Week 6	17-Jun MANON Seo Bolle Abrera Whiteside	18-Jun MANON Lane Cornejo Trenary Simkin	19-Jun MANON Copeland Stearns Hurlin Royal	19-Jun MANON Boylston Hallberg Shevchenko Hoven	BOLLE FAREWELL 20-Jun MANON Seo Bolle Abrera Whiteside	21-Jun MANON Lane Cornejo Trenary Simkin	22-Jun MANON Boylston Hallberg Shevchenko Hoven	22-Jun MANON Copeland Stearns Hurlin Royal
Week 7	24-Jun SWAN LAKE Seo Stearns	25-Jun SWAN LAKE Shevchenko Whiteside	26-Jun SWAN LAKE Teuscher Bell	26-Jun SWAN LAKE Copeland Cornejo	27-Jun SWAN LAKE Boylston Simkin	28-Jun SWAN LAKE Teuscher Bell	29-Jun SWAN LAKE Seo Stearns	29-Jun SWAN LAKE Copeland Hallberg
Week 8	1-Jul The SLEEPING BEAUTY Boylston Whiteside	2-Jul The SLEEPING BEAUTY Lane Cornejo	3-Jul The SLEEPING BEAUTY Trenary Gorak	3-Jul The SLEEPING BEAUTY Seo Bell	THURSDAY MAT INDEPENDENCE DAY 4-Jul The SLEEPING BEAUTY Boylston Whiteside	5-Jul The SLEEPING BEAUTY Lane Cornejo	6-Jul The SLEEPING BEAUTY Seo Bell	6-Jul The SLEEPING BEAUTY Trenary Gorak

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