

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

**NEW YORK PREMIERE OF CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON'S  
*LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE* TO HIGHLIGHT  
AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE'S SUMMER SEASON  
AT THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE,  
JUNE 22–JULY 22, 2023**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 1:00 P.M.**

NEW YORK, NY (November 16, 2022) – American Ballet Theatre's 2023 Summer season at the Metropolitan Opera House, June 22 – July 22, will feature the New York Premiere of Tony Award winner Christopher Wheeldon's *Like Water for Chocolate*. Three of ABT's most beloved classic productions, *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, and *Romeo and Juliet*, will round out the season, announced today by incoming Artistic Director Susan Jaffe.

Principal Dancers for the 2023 Summer season include Joo Won Ahn, Aran Bell, Isabella Boylston, Skylar Brandt, Daniel Camargo, Herman Cornejo, Thomas Forster, Catherine Hurlin, Gillian Murphy, Calvin Royal III, Hee Seo, Christine Shevchenko, Cory Stearns, Devon Teuscher, Cassandra Trenary, James Whiteside, and Roman Zhurbin.

**Opening Night Gala and New York Premiere**

The Opening Night Gala performance, taking place on Thursday evening, June 22 at 6:30 P.M. at the Metropolitan Opera House, marks the New York Premiere of *Like Water for Chocolate*, a three-act ballet inspired by Laura Esquivel's bestselling novel of the same name. From the award-winning team of choreographer Christopher Wheeldon and composer Joby Talbot, this co-production with The Royal Ballet features scenery and costumes by Bob Crowley, lighting by Natasha Katz, and video design by Luke Halls.

*Like Water for Chocolate* tells the story of Tita, a young Mexican woman who is overwhelmed by a sense of duty and family tradition. Tita's only form of expression is through cooking, but her life takes an unexpected turn when she falls in forbidden love with her wealthy neighbor Pedro. The ballet received its World Premiere by The Royal Ballet on June 2, 2022 at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London. It is scheduled to receive its North American Premiere by American Ballet Theatre on March 29, 2023 at

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Seegerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California. The ballet will receive 12 performances through Saturday, July 1 during ABT's Summer season at the Metropolitan Opera House.

**Classic Full-Lengths**

The season's first performance of the full-length production of *Giselle* will be given on Monday evening, July 3 at 7:30 P.M., with Hee Seo in the title role alongside Cory Stearns as Albrecht. Staged by Kevin McKenzie with choreography after Jean Coralli, Jules Perrot, and Marius Petipa, *Giselle* is set to music by Adolphe Adam, orchestrated by John Lanchbery, with scenery by Gianni Quaranta, costumes by Anna Anni, and lighting by Jennifer Tipton. The world premiere of *Giselle*, one of 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. ABT'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. *Giselle* will be given eight performances at the Metropolitan Opera House through July 8.

ABT's Summer season continues on Monday, July 10 with the first performance of *Swan Lake*, led by Isabella Boylston as Odette-Odile and Daniel Camargo as Prince Siegfried. Set to music by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky, *Swan Lake* is choreographed by Kevin McKenzie after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov 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 John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. with Julie Kent (Odette-Odile) and Angel Corella (Prince Siegfried). The ballet will be given eight performances this season.

Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet* will open on Tuesday evening, July 18 with Devon Teuscher and Aran Bell in the title roles. 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 Premiere at The John F. 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. It will be given seven performances through July 22 at the Metropolitan Opera House.

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**ABTKids**

*ABTKids*, American Ballet Theatre's annual one-hour introduction to ballet for families, is scheduled for Saturday morning, June 24 at 11:00 A.M. All tickets for *ABTKids* are \$25.

Subscriptions for American Ballet Theatre's 2023 Summer season at the Metropolitan Opera House, on sale beginning Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 1:00 P.M., are available by phone at 212-362-6000, or online at ABT's website [www.abt.org](http://www.abt.org).

**ABOUT AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE**

American Ballet Theatre is one of the greatest dance companies in the world. Revered as a national treasure since its founding season in 1940, its mission is to create, present, preserve, and extend the great repertoire of classical dancing for the widest possible audience. Headquartered in New York City, ABT is the only cultural institution of its size and stature to extensively tour, enchanting audiences for eight decades in 50 U.S. states, 45 countries, and over 480 cities worldwide. ABT's repertoire includes full-length classics from the nineteenth century, the finest works from the early twentieth century, and acclaimed contemporary masterpieces. In 2006, by an act of Congress, ABT was designated America's National Ballet Company®.

**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.**

***Swan Lake* is generously underwritten by R. Chemers Neustein.**

**Commissions and presentations of new works by women choreographers are supported by the ABT Women's Movement. Champion support for the ABT Women's Movement is provided by Jenna Segal. Additional leadership support is provided by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.**

**ABT's Choreographic Innovation and Inspiration and Inclusion programs are generously supported by the Blavatnik Family Foundation. Additional major support is provided by Mark Casey and Carrie Gaiser Casey, the Ford Foundation, The Ted and Mary Jo Shen Charitable Gift Fund and through an endowed gift from the Toni and Martin Sosnoff New Works Fund.**

**Special thanks to Denise Littlefield Sobel for her leadership gifts to: ABT's Media Fund, advancing the Company's digital endeavors; and *ABT RISE*, fueling the Company's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.**

***ABTKids* is generously sponsored by Bloomberg Philanthropies.**

**American Airlines is a proud sponsor of American Ballet Theatre.**

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**AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE**  
**Metropolitan Opera House 2023**

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY MAT.	WEDNESDAY EVE.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY MAT.	SATURDAY EVE.
Week 1	19-Jun	20-Jun	21-Jun	21-Jun	22-Jun <i>GALA</i> <b><u>LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE</u></b> TBA	23-Jun <b><u>LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE</u></b> TBA	24-Jun <b><u>LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE</u></b> TBA	24-Jun <b><u>LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE</u></b> TBA
Week 2	26-Jun <b><u>LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE</u></b> TBA	27-Jun <b><u>LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE</u></b> TBA	28-Jun <b><u>LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE</u></b> TBA	28-Jun <b><u>LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE</u></b> TBA	29-Jun <b><u>LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE</u></b> TBA	30-Jun <b><u>LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE</u></b> TBA	1-Jul <b><u>LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE</u></b> TBA	1-Jul <b><u>LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE</u></b> TBA
Week 3	3-Jul <b><u>GISELLE</u></b> Seo Stearns	<b>TUESDAY MAT. 2:00 PM</b> <i>INDEPENDENCE DAY</i> 4-Jul <b><u>GISELLE</u></b> Teuscher Bell	5-Jul <b><u>GISELLE</u></b> Hurlin Camargo	5-Jul <b><u>GISELLE</u></b> Brandt Cornejo	6-Jul <b><u>GISELLE</u></b> Shevchenko Royal	7-Jul <b><u>GISELLE</u></b> Boylston Ahn	8-Jul <b><u>GISELLE</u></b> Trenary Whiteside	8-Jul <b><u>GISELLE</u></b> Murphy Forster
Week 4	10-Jul <b><u>SWAN LAKE</u></b> Boylston Camargo	11-Jul <b><u>SWAN LAKE</u></b> Seo Bell	12-Jul <b><u>SWAN LAKE</u></b> Murphy Forster	12-Jul <b><u>SWAN LAKE</u></b> Hurlin Whiteside	13-Jul <b><u>SWAN LAKE</u></b> Brandt Cornejo	14-Jul <b><u>SWAN LAKE</u></b> Teuscher Stearns	15-Jul <b><u>SWAN LAKE</u></b> Seo Bell	15-Jul <b><u>SWAN LAKE</u></b> Shevchenko Royal
Week 5	17-Jul	18-Jul <b><u>ROMEO AND JULIET</u></b> Teuscher Bell	19-Jul <b><u>ROMEO AND JULIET</u></b> Hurlin Royal	19-Jul <b><u>ROMEO AND JULIET</u></b> Boylston Camargo	20-Jul <b><u>ROMEO AND JULIET</u></b> Seo Stearns	21-Jul <b><u>ROMEO AND JULIET</u></b> Murphy Whiteside	22-Jul <b><u>ROMEO AND JULIET</u></b> Shevchenko Forster	22-Jul <b><u>ROMEO AND JULIET</u></b> Trenary Cornejo

Casting and programs subject to change.

Gala @ 6:30 PM  
Monday through Saturday evenings @ 7:30 PM  
Wednesday and Saturday matinees @ 2:00 PM