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**HOUSTON BALLET PREPARES FOR LOS ANGELES TOUR HONORING
CHOREOGRAPHER WILLIAM FORSYTHE**

HOUSTON, TEXAS [September 2016] From October 21 - 23, Houston Ballet will travel to Los Angeles, CA to take part in *Celebrate Forsythe*, a program with a never-before-seen approach that salutes three works from distinguished American choreographer William Forsythe. Houston Ballet was personally selected by Forsythe to perform **Artifact Suite** at The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

"Having William Forsythe personally select Houston Ballet to represent his work at The Music Center is an extraordinary honor," said Houston Ballet Executive Director, Jim Nelson. "Over the past decade we have steadily increased the number of Forsythe ballets in our repertoire, and the opportunity to perform his **Artifact Suite** in Los Angeles is an exceptional opportunity to showcase our gifted dancers."

Houston Ballet will perform alongside San Francisco Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet, rounding out a program of three American companies, each hand-picked by Forsythe himself to pay homage to his unique style with confidence. Included in *Celebrate Forsythe* San Francisco Ballet is set to perform Forsythe's **Pas/Parts 2016** and Pacific Northwest Ballet will be making their Music Center debut performing **The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude**.

The company premiere of **Artifact Suite** recently occurred in September in Houston with rave reviews from Houston Press, Houston Chronicle, and Broadway World. As the third Forsythe piece added to Houston Ballet's diverse repertoire, the visit to Los Angeles adds exciting momentum to a growing relationship with Mr. Forsythe's iconic works.

Intended for 35 dancers, **Artifact Suite** is an abstraction from his evening-length four-act ballet, **Artifact**, created in 1984 for Ballett Frankfurt. Here Mr. Forsythe shortens the ballet into a stunning once-act piece that preserves all of the original ballet's striking innovation and power. In **Artifact Suite** Houston Ballet's company of 59 dancers extend and break the rules of classical ballet.

Active in the dance field for more than 45 years, and one of the most prolific and influential choreographers of this era, Forsythe has been recognized for revolutionizing the practice of ballet from its traditional association with classical repertoire to a dynamic 21st century art form. Many consider him the greatest innovator in ballet since George Balanchine. Forsythe's ballets have entered the repertoires of the world's leading companies, including the New York City Ballet, the Paris Opera Ballet, the Royal Ballet of London, the Nederlands Dans Theater, and the Royal Swedish Ballet. In March 2003, he received the prestigious Dance Magazine Award for his contribution to the field of dance. Forsythe is currently a Professor of Dance and Artistic Advisory for the Choreographic Institute at USC Glorlya Kaufman School of Dance.

In addition to *Celebrate Forsythe*, October's month-long presentation *Fall for Forsythe* includes a variety of events that will begin with a two-part exhibition, *Focus Forsythe: The Choreographer's Process* on September 29, co-presented by USC Glorlya Kaufman School of Dance and USC Visions and Voices. From October 1-23 The Music Center campus will showcase *Forsythe Designed: A Costume Exhibition*, a curated exhibit of costumes from

Forsythe's work. *Fall for Forsythe* continues with a free discussion with Forsythe collaborator, Norah Zuniga Shaw, titled *Futures in Motion* on October 14 and *Site-Specific Forsythe* on October 15-16 with two site-specific interactive experiences by Forsythe, *Stellenstellen* (2016) and *Acquisition*, presented by LACMA and performed by USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance students.

ABOUT THE MUSIC CENTER

The Music Center is Los Angeles' home to the world's greatest artistic programs and events. With four iconic theaters and four renowned resident companies – LA Phil, LA Opera, Center Theatre Group and the Los Angeles Master Chorale – and recognized for its illustrious dance programming, Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, The Music Center is a destination where audiences find inspiration in the very best of live performance, as well as nationally recognized arts education and participatory arts experiences. The Music Center also programs and manages Grand Park, a 12-acre adjacent greenspace, with year-round free programming. For more information, visit musiccenter.org and follow The Music Center on Facebook and Twitter (@MusicCenterLA).

ABOUT GLORYA KAUFMAN PRESENTS DANCE AT THE MUSIC CENTER

Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center is one of the leading presenters of dance on the West Coast. The celebrated series offers significant works by prestigious ballet and contemporary dance artists from around the world. Entering its second decade, Dance at The Music Center continues to be a powerful commissioning force through the support of new works and artists-in-residence projects by today's most influential companies and choreographers. Performances take place throughout The Music Center, including the historic Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the distinctive Ahmanson Theatre, and the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall, providing the ideal setting for inspiring dance experiences.

For more information on Houston Ballet, visit www.houstonballet.org.

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