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Houston Ballet presents Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance, December 6

*A One-Night-Only Celebration of Houston Ballet's Legacy, Future,
and the Career of former Executive Director, James Nelson*

PHOTOS & VIDEOS: [LINK [HERE](#)]

HOUSTON, TX – November 21, 2025 – Houston Ballet proudly presents the Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance, a one-night-only event that celebrates the artistry, history, and future of one of the country's leading ballet companies. This year's performance takes on special significance as it marks the final celebration of former Executive Director James Nelson, who is now retired after more than a decade of visionary leadership.

A treasured Houston tradition for 20 years, the Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance showcases Houston Ballet's extraordinary dancers who bring the Company's legacy to life while spotlighting the promise of rising stars. Each piece has been thoughtfully curated to reflect the vitality, versatility, and vision that define Houston Ballet under the artistic leadership of Artistic Directors Julie Kent and Stanton Welch AM.

"The Jubilee of Dance is a beloved Houston Ballet tradition—a night where we celebrate the spirit of our Company, our dancers, and the community that supports us," said Sonja Kostich, Executive Director at Houston Ballet. "This year's program captures both the depth of our repertoire and the excitement of what's ahead as we honor the remarkable contributions of my predecessor, James Nelson."

This season's Jubilee of Dance will feature exhilarating excerpts from Houston Ballet's repertoire, including:

Act I

- *Raymonda* – Act III Opening Scenes, choreographed by Stanton Welch AM
- *Onegin* – Act I Bedroom Pas de Deux, choreographed by John Cranko
- *Rooster* – Paint It Black, choreographed by Christopher Bruce
- *Tapestry* – Second Movement, choreographed by Stanton Welch AM
- Tchaikovsky Pas De Deux – Excerpts, choreographed by George Balanchine
- *Flames of Paris* – Excerpts, choreographed by Vasily Vainonen
- *Sylvia* – Act III Pas de Deux, choreographed by Stanton Welch AM

- *Sons de L'ame* – Movement Five, choreographed by Stanton Welch AM
- *Vi et Animo* – Third Movement, choreographed by Stanton Welch AM

Act II

- *Echoes*, choreographed by Ilya Kozadayev
- *Dream a Little Dream*, choreographed by Stanton Welch AM

Act III

- *Theme and Variations*, choreographed by Stanton Welch AM

Each Jubilee is an opportunity to witness excerpts of the previous seasons and a sneak peak into what's to come. Additionally, it's a chance for audiences to enjoy the revival of rarely seen works pulled from the vault, including Vasily Vainonen's *Flames of Paris*, to premieres by emerging choreographers like Ilya Kozadayev who will be debuting his work *Echoes* with the Houston Ballet Company. And to celebrate James Nelson's retirement with the Company, Welch has choreographed a special piece to "Dream A Little Dream."

The Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance is a joyous, fast-paced evening that commemorates Houston Ballet's rich legacy while spotlighting its promising future.

Performance Details

Jubilee, December 5, 2025

Generously underwritten by Kent and Shara Schaffer.

Schedule: Friday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m.
Venue: Wortham Theater Center
 501 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77002
Tickets: Visit www.houstonballet.org

ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET

Founded in 1969, Houston Ballet is the fourth-largest ballet company in the U.S., known for its artistic excellence, bold choreography, and exceptional training programs. Under the leadership of Artistic Directors Julie Kent and Stanton Welch AM, and Executive Director Sonja Kostich, the Company operates with a \$44 million budget (FY26) and a \$126 million endowment (as of October 2025). In April 2011, it opened the Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance, a \$46.6 million-dollar state-of-the-art training facility. The Company regularly performs in the Wortham Theater Center in Houston, Texas, and tours internationally to cities such as London, Paris, and Tokyo. Additionally, its Education and Community Engagement programs reach more than 85,000 people annually, while the Houston Ballet Academy trains over 1,000 students each year, with a majority on scholarship. For more information on Houston Ballet, visit houstonballet.org/explore/history.

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