

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Houston Ballet Presents: John Cranko's *Onegin*, September 5 - 14, 2025**

*A sweeping tale of love, heartbreak, and second chances returns to the Wortham Theater Center*

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

**HOUSTON, TX – August 4, 2025** – Houston Ballet is proud to present the return of John Cranko's *Onegin*, running September 5 through 14, 2025, at the Wortham Theater Center. Based on Alexander Pushkin's beloved verse novel *Eugene Onegin*, it is a poignant and emotionally rich ballet that has captivated audiences for decades.

Set to a deeply expressive score by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, arranged by Kurt-Heinz Stolze, *Onegin* brings 19th-century Russia to vivid life as it explores the timeless tale of love, rejection, and regret. The plot follows Tatiana, a young country girl, who is introduced to Onegin, a worldly aristocrat bored with city life. She falls for him with innocent, unwavering devotion, but he sees only a naive girl lost in romantic fantasies. Years later, fate reunites them, and Onegin longs for the love he once rejected—only to face the tragic consequences of his choices.

"Onegin is a story about timing, about choices, and how we can't undo the past," said Reid Anderson-Graefe, internationally renowned ballet director, longtime steward of and the rights holder to Cranko's work. "Cranko's choreography captures that ache—the emotional complexity behind every decision the characters make. It's not just beautiful dancing; it's theater in motion. The emotions, the relationships, the heartbreak is all there in the movement."

Anderson-Graefe, who has staged *Onegin* across the globe, said of the Company: "Houston Ballet is a jewel. The dancers are hungry, focused, and full of curiosity. Not every Company has that magic."

Houston Ballet's production features elegant costumes and sets by Santo Loquast and lighting design by James F. Ingalls, transporting audiences straight into the world of Russian aristocracy, where honor, passion, and pride collide. The work's profound emotional depth and classical choreography have made it a cornerstone of ballet companies' repertoires across the globe.

Performance details are as follows:

### **Onegin, September 5 - 14, 2025**

*Choreography: John Cranko | Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)*

Supported by Mrs. Norah Orphanides

Schedule: 7 p.m. on September 5, 2025  
7:30 p.m. on September 6 & 13, 2025  
2 p.m. on September 7 & 14, 2025

Venue: Wortham Theater Center  
501 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77002

Tickets: Visit [www.houstonballet.org](http://www.houstonballet.org)

### **ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET**

Founded in 1968, Houston Ballet continues to inspire a lasting love and appreciation for dance through artistic excellence, exhilarating performances, innovative choreography and superb educational programs. With over 50 years of rich history, Houston Ballet is the country's fourth-largest ballet Company with a budget of \$41.2 million and an endowment of \$110.8 million (as of July 2024). In addition to performing regularly at the Wortham Theater Center, Houston Ballet's reach is global, touring theaters in Dubai, London, Paris, Moscow, Spain, Montréal, Ottawa, Melbourne, Tokyo, and more.

Houston Ballet is led by Artistic Directors Stanton Welch AM (since 2003) and Julie Kent (since 2023). Welch continues the legacy of Houston Ballet being a choreographic Eden by commissioning over 30 works from world-renowned choreographers, including Kylián, MacMillan, Neumeier, and Robbins, as well as creating 43 new works, including the recent World Premiere of *Raymonda*. Sonja Kostich serves as the administrative leader of the organization, a position she assumed in August 2025.

Beyond its stage presence, Houston Ballet maintains a strong foothold in continuing to foster a love for dance in future generations. Its Education and Community Engagement program reaches more than 85,000 individuals in the Houston area annually. Houston Ballet Academy trains more than 1,000 students every year, producing more than 60 percent of the extraordinary artists that comprise Houston Ballet's current Company.

For more information on Houston Ballet, visit [houstonballet.org/explore/history](http://houstonballet.org/explore/history).

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