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HOUSTON BALLET PRESENTS SPRING PERFORMANCES JEWELS AND SYLVIA

WHO: Houston Ballet

WHAT: *Jewels*

WHERE: Wortham Theater Center

WHEN: February 24 - March 6, 2022

TICKETS: On sale now at www.houstonballet.org or 713.227.ARTS (2787)

FEB. 24 – MARCH 4, 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				Feb. 24	25	26
				7:30 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
27	28	March 1	2	3	4	5
2:00 PM					7:30 PM	7:30 PM
6						
2:00 PM						

PHOTOS: <https://bit.ly/3rBixqj>

VIDEOS: <https://bit.ly/3rBwpRs>

HOUSTON, TEXAS [February 14, 2022] — Houston Ballet excites with stunning spring performances of *Jewels* and *Sylvia*, meant to delight audiences of all ages featuring sword fighting, fashionable costumes and optical illusions using projection, costume and scenic design.

Jewels

Choreographer: George Balanchine | Music: Gabriel Faure/ Igor Stravinsky/ Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky
February 24 - March 6, 2022

Houston Ballet's *Jewels* shines bright as the first ballet performance of the year at Wortham Theater Center. Opening on February 24, dancers sparkle in this full-length ballet inspired by Claude Arpels' jewelry and choreographed by George Balanchine.

"*Jewels* is a great showcase for the company highlighting the principals and three genres of classical dance. The piece is very difficult and has a current and fresh feel for the dancers and the audience," says Artistic Director Stanton Welch AM.

Each act has a distinct style of dance and appreciation for ballet. Act I features ballerinas in clouds of tulle floating on stage, evoking France, the birthplace of Romantic dance and French style. Act II reflects the carefree spontaneity of American culture, set to the music of Igor Stravinsky, with Balanchine's beloved ballerinas dazzling the audience with jazzy movement and the joy of dance. Act III mirrors the grandeur and precision of the Imperial Ballet of St. Petersburg, honoring the work and legacy of the First Ballet Master and choreographer, Marius Petipa.

“Balanchine’s *Jewels* is a multi-faceted look at Romantic, classical and neo-classical ballet. The *Emeralds* section is soft and moody with fluid movements in the Romantic style,” remarks Welch. “*Rubies* is sexy, cheeky and sleek in the neo-classical style, a style Balanchine personified. And *Diamonds* focuses on precision and cleanliness in the classical style.”

Debuting as a company premiere to rave reviews in 2010, *Jewels* is a plotless ballet that looks into the three golden ages of dance. According to Molly Glentzer from the Houston Chronicle, “You can easily see the sylph and fairy influences in *Emeralds*, the Broadway glimmer of *Rubies* and the imperial classicism of *Diamonds*. The ballet demands attention now for the same reasons as *Swan Lake* or *The Sleeping Beauty*, minus most of the opulent trappings.”

Sylvia

Choreographer: Stanton Welch AM | Music: Léo Délibes

March 10 - 20, 2022

WHO: Houston Ballet

WHAT: *Sylvia*

WHERE: Wortham Theater Center

WHEN: March 10 - 20, 2022

TICKETS: On sale now at www.houstonballet.org or 713.227.ARTS (2787)

MARCH 10 – 20, 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				March 10	11	12
				7:30 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
2:00 PM					7:30 PM	7:30 PM
20						
2:00 PM						

PHOTOS: <https://bit.ly/3oEKw6H>

VIDEOS: <https://bit.ly/34Kr4P1>

Set to the iconic score by Léo Délibes, *Sylvia* is a dramatic interpretation by Artistic Director Stanton Welch AM, following three different stories in an epic tale of love caught between two worlds. Returning to the stage after debuting as a world premiere in 2019, this brisk 95-minute action-packed story ballet immerses audiences in Greek mythology focusing on three heroines fighting for love: Sylvia, the huntress, Artemis, the goddess and Psyche, the mortal.

“The female roles are very much the center of the stories,” says Welch. “This is what really makes this ballet interesting, three female leads within one work -- Sylvia, Artemis and Psyche -- their stories, their loves and their lives.”

Audiences are transported between worlds with projection design by Wendall K. Harrington and costume and scenic design by Jérôme Kaplan, setting the stage for love, deceit, betrayal and heartbreak. The thematic scenes, along with the fierce choreography by Welch, exemplify the high caliber of performance and entertainment expected of the world-renowned Houston Ballet. With thrilling sword fighting and illusions created with projections by Harrington, *Sylvia* is a production not to be missed, and ticket buyers are encouraged to buy their tickets early at HoustonBallet.org or 713.227.ARTS (2787).

Sylvia is generously underwritten by Phoebe and Bobby Tudor, longtime supporters of Houston Ballet and charitable leaders of the Houston community. In 2018, they were honored with the Maurice Hirsch Award for Philanthropy at the National Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon, the chapter’s highest recognition.

“Houston Ballet is directly impacted by the support provided by Phoebe and Bobby Tudor. For us, they’re family,” says Welch. “I thank them for this wonderful opportunity to choreograph a childhood dream and give our dancers great roles to dance. They make everyone in our organization feel loved and connected.”

ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET

With more than 50 years of rich history, Houston Ballet returns to its home stage at the Wortham Theater Center for its 2021-2022 season with a company of 59 dancers. With a budget of \$33.9 million and an endowment of \$79.2 million (as of June 2019), it is America’s fifth largest ballet company. Its \$46.6 million state-of-the-art performance space, Houston Ballet Center for Dance, opened in April 2011. Houston Ballet’s reach is global, touring in renowned theaters in Dubai, London, Paris, Moscow, Spain, Montréal, Ottawa, Melbourne, New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and more.

Houston Ballet attracts prestigious leaders in dance. Australian choreographer Stanton Welch AM has served as Artistic Director of Houston Ballet since 2003, raising the level of the company’s classical technique and commissioning works from dance legends such as Julia Adam, George Balanchine, Aszure Barton, Christopher Bruce, Alexander Ekman, William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Edwaard Liang, Trey McIntyre and Justin Peck. Executive Director James Nelson serves as the administrative leader of the organization, a position he assumed in February 2012 after serving as the Company’s General Manager for more than a decade.

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 70,000 individuals in the Houston area annually. Houston Ballet Academy trains more than 1,000 students every year, producing more than 64 percent of the elite athletes that comprise Houston Ballet’s current Company.

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

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