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**Houston Ballet Returns to Japan for Summer 2025 Tour**

*First International Tour Since 2022 Marks a Triumphant Return to Japan*

**PHOTOS & VIDEOS:** [LINK [HERE](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/0bjz5m5l4g6osulfvbj4u/AJFYX53hPFHtcGfy6w1qLkM?rlkey=mpncwdgeh4yp6y3lj1ed4iwdi&st=xbt4sqz7&dl=0)]

**HOUSTON, TX — June 10, 2025 —** Houston Ballet proudly announces its highly anticipated Summer 2025 Japan Tour, bringing its distinctive blend of technical excellence and storytelling to audiences in Tokyo and Nagoya from July 3 - 12, 2025. This marks the Company's first international tour since 2022. The company will present two programs: a dynamic mixed repertoire and Stanton Welch AM’s critically acclaimed reimagining of *Giselle*. This tour reflects Houston Ballet’s continued commitment to international engagement and artistic exchange.

“I am thrilled to be returning to Japan. It’s been almost 10 years since my last visit, and now it is particularly meaningful for me to return with my new Houston Ballet family,” said Julie Kent, Artistic Director at Houston Ballet. “This tour is a celebration of connection through dance, and we look forward to bringing these beautiful works to the stages of Tokyo and Nagoya.”

The performances showcase the company’s versatility and technical brilliance, with the mixed repertoire featuring Stanton Welch’s *Clear*, *Sylvia* pas de deux, *Sons de L’âme* pas de deux, *Madame Butterfly* pas de deux, and *Velocity*. These works highlight Houston Ballet’s emotive storytelling and virtuosic movement. Additionally, audiences will revel in Stanton Welch’s version of one of ballet’s most revered works, *Giselle*, which tells the heart-wrenching story of a peasant girl tragically betrayed by an aristocrat posing as a commoner.

Performance Schedule:

**Tokyo** *– Bunka Kaikan*

* July 3, 2025 at 7 p.m. – Mixed Repertoire
* July 5, 2025 at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. – *Giselle*
* July 6, 2025 at 1 p.m. – *Giselle*

**Nagoya** *– Aichi Prefectural Art Theater*

* July 10, 2025 at 7 p.m. – Mixed Repertoire
* July 12, 2025 at 1 p.m. – *Giselle*

For more information, visit: houstonballet.org/seasontickets/on-tour/houston-ballet-on-tour/.

**ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET**

With over 50 years of rich history, Houston Ballet has evolved into a company with a budget of $37.6 million and an endowment of $97.5 million (as of June 2023), making it the country’s fourth-largest ballet company. Its $46.6 million state-of-the-art performance space, the Houston Ballet Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance opened in April 2011. In addition, Houston Ballet's reach is global, touring theaters in Dubai, London, Paris, Moscow, Spain, Montréal, Ottawa, Melbourne, New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Tokyo and more.

Australian choreographer Stanton Welch AM has served as Artistic Director of Houston Ballet since 2003. Welch has choreographed 43 new works for Houston Ballet during his tenure while ensuring the growth of the Company’s repertoire by presenting works from George Balanchine, William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Sir Kenneth MacMillan, John Neumeier, and Jerome Robbins. Welch continues the legacy of Houston Ballet being a choreographic Eden by commissioning over 30 works from world-renowned choreographers including Aszure Barton, Trey McIntyre, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and Justin Peck. Julie Kent joined Welch as Artistic Director in 2023, after serving as Artistic Director of The Washington Ballet from 2016 – 2023 and following a storied career as a Principal ballerina of American Ballet Theatre - the longest-tenured dancer in ABT’s 85-year history. 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 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](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.houstonballet.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7CALee%40houstonballet.org%7C64e1cc87723949d1a10408dc32704e3b%7C96ffe6484e0e4d839e7a0b72af0ac187%7C0%7C0%7C638440705143801451%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VlLWJ3L1c7HffofHZEmSzSNXbtA4wnnmnjGzrK9zMKE%3D&reserved=0) ###