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MEDIA CONTACT:

Ellen Neiers, Houston Ballet

eneiers@houstonballet.org | press@houstonballet.org

C: (936) 230-9190



Houston Ballet Presents: **Rock, Roll & Tutus: A Mixed Repertory Program Bridging Bold Sound and Ballet**, September 18 - 28, 2025

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

HOUSTON, TX – August 4, 2025 – Houston Ballet ignites the stage this fall with *Rock, Roll & Tutus*, a high-energy mixed repertory program running September 18 through 28, 2025, at the Wortham Theater Center. Featuring four expressive and artistically bold works, this vibrant program fuses classical technique with the rhythm of modern life. With choreography from ISHIDA, Christopher Bruce, Jacquelyn Long, and Artistic Director Stanton Welch AM, it's an unforgettable blend of emotion, music, and movement.

“Being part of this program is such a unique experience—it’s truly a celebration of how versatile ballet can be,” said Jacquelyn Long, Houston Ballet Soloist and choreographer of *Illuminate*. “To present my first commissioned work with Houston Ballet for our first mixed repertory program this season alongside such powerful and diverse works is incredibly exciting. I’m honored to share the stage with these talented choreographers and dancers, and to be part of a program that pushes creative boundaries while honoring ballet’s roots.”

The program features:

what i was thinking while i was waltzing

Choreographer: ISHIDA | Music: Ezio Bosso

A deeply introspective and cinematic work, ISHIDA’s *what i was thinking while i was waltzing* offers an emotional meditation on memory and human connection. Set to movements from Ezio Bosso’s *String Quartet No. 5*, the ballet is visually arresting, with abstract, gestural movement that invites the audience into its intimate world.

Premiered by Houston Ballet in 2024 for the Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance, the work is as much about what is said in silence as what is danced in motion, capturing the vulnerability and poetry of life’s quietest moments.

Illuminate

Choreographer: Jacquelyn Long | Music: Oliver Davis

Illuminate is the first work by Soloist Jacquelyn Long to debut with the Company during its regular season; it features six dancers in a quick-moving, vibrant celebration of dance. Created for the 2023 Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance, *Illuminate* explores the spark of inspiration—how ideas begin, evolve, and radiate outward.

Set to Oliver Davis' *Frontiers*, Long's choreography unfolds in three elegant movements, with bright yellow and gray costumes designed by Holly Hynes symbolizing ideas and inspiration. It's a visually radiant work filled with warmth, hope, and the joyful momentum of discovery.

Rooster

Choreographer: Christopher Bruce | Music: The Rolling Stones

Set to eight iconic tracks by The Rolling Stones, *Rooster* bursts onto the stage with swagger, satire, and style. Christopher Bruce's choreography is equal parts cool and cheeky, playing off the band's famously provocative lyrics with wry humor and retro flair.

Originally premiered in 1991 and last performed by Houston Ballet in 2012, *Rooster* showcases the boldness of both the music and the movement, paying homage to the rebellious spirit of the '60s, with a wink and a strut.

Vi et animo

Choreographer: Stanton Welch AM | Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Set to Tchaikovsky's iconic *Piano Concerto No. 1*, Stanton Welch's *Vi et animo* is a dazzling display of talent and technique, highlighting bold and dramatic movements. A sweeping tribute to the strength and artistry of the Company, *Vi et animo*—Latin for "with heart and soul"—showcases Houston Ballet's full ensemble in a stunning display of power and elegance.

Premiered in 2023, Stanton Welch's work weaves commanding solos and soaring group sequences that push classical technique into thrilling territory.

Performance Details

Rock, Roll & Tutus, September 18 - 28, 2025

Production underwriting by Ann Trammell, Anne & Albert Chao, and Kent & Shara Schaffer

Schedule: 7:30 p.m. on September 18, 2025
7:30 p.m. on September 20 and September 26 - 27, 2025
1:30 p.m. on September 27, 2025
2 p.m. on September 28, 2025

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

Tickets: Visit 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.

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