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HoustonBallet
50th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

PRESENTS

Locally Grown. World Renowned.

HOUSTON BALLET UNVEILS NEW WORKS DURING LOCALLY GROWN. WORLD RENOWNED.

WHO: Houston Ballet
WHAT: Locally Grown. World Renowned.
WHERE: Wortham Theater Center
WHEN: September 19-29, 2019
TICKETS: On Sale Now at houstonballet.org or 713.227.ARTS(2787)

September 19-29, 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
15	16	17	18	19 7:30 PM	20	21 7:30 PM
22 2:00 PM	23	24	25	26	27 7:30 PM	28 7:30 PM
29 2:00 PM						

HOUSTON, TEXAS [September 10, 2019] — Houston Ballet prepares to show its dancers’ range and versatility during its first mixed repertoire program of the 2019-2020 season, *Locally Grown. World Renowned*. Two favorites by choreographers James Kudelka and Edwaard Liang will return to the Wortham Theater Center stage, along with two world premieres by Chinese choreographer Disha Zhang and Houston Ballet First Soloist Oliver Halkowich.

“I am honored and thrilled to be a part of Houston Ballet’s 50th season, and that joy is what I want the audience to feel in my new work,” says Halkowich.

This will be Halkowich’s first solo choreography work on the Company. He collaborated with fellow dancers Melody Mennite and Connor Walsh to create *What we keep* post Hurricane Harvey. As Halkowich describes, the new piece will be a “mosaic” of his life and what ballet is in today’s world.

Zhang’s new work also makes its debut. This is the first time she has choreographed on an American ballet company. Artistic Director Stanton Welch AM first saw Zhang’s work at the Nijinsky Gala in Germany, and he knew immediately she needed to choreograph on the Company.

Kudelka's *Passion* and Liang's *Murmuration* make their grand returns to Houston for the first time since their 2013 debuts. The kinetically thrilling *Murmuration* explores birds in flight, while *Passion* is a romantic look at relationships. These two pieces, along with their world premiere counterparts, speak to Welch's vision for the 50th – to show works created on Houston Ballet in Houston for the greater Houston community.

Adding to the organization's beliefs of inclusivity and outreach, members of the public are invited to take a deeper dive into exploring what it takes to bring new works to the stage during the upcoming free Dance Talk on September 10 at 7:15 p.m. at Houston Ballet's Center for Dance. The creative teams will discuss their processes in developing the ballets and answer audience questions.

Join Houston Ballet for Locally Grown. World Renowned. September 19-29 by visiting HoustonBallet.org or by calling 713.227.ARTS(2787).

ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET

Celebrating 50 years of creativity, Houston Ballet has evolved from a Company of 16 dancers to one of 61 dancers with a budget of \$33.9 million and an endowment of \$79.2 million (as of June 2019), making it the country's fifth largest ballet company. Its Center for Dance is a \$46.6 million state-of-the-art performance space that opened in April 2011 and remains the largest professional dance facility in America. 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 50 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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