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MEDIA CONTACT:

Jacalyn Lawton
Public Relations Manager
JLawton@houstonballet.org
Press@houstonballet.org



PRESENTS

MARIE

HISTORY BECOMES HERSTORY AS STANTON WELCH'S MARIE CLOSES HOUSTON BALLET'S SEASON

WHO: Houston Ballet

WHAT: *Marie*

WHERE: Wortham Theater Center

WHEN: June 14-23, 2019

TICKETS: On Sale Now at www.houstonballet.org or 713.227.ARTS(2787)

JUNE 14-23, 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
9	10	11	12	13	14 7:30 PM	15 7:30 PM
16 2:00 PM	17	18	19	20	21 7:30 PM	22 7:30 PM
23 2:00 PM	24	25	26	27	28	29

PHOTOS & VIDEO: <https://bit.ly/2JWscmO>

HOUSTON, TEXAS [June 4, 2019] — In this dramatic retelling of France's infamous young monarchs, history becomes HERstory as Stanton Welch's *Marie* returns to the Wortham Theater Center to close Houston Ballet's 2018/19 season.

The past unfolds in the three-act ballet that chronicles the Queen's life in a time of immense social and political strife for the people of France. Returning to the role originally created on her in 2009, Houston Ballet Principal Dancer Melody Mennite will dance the ballet's namesake once again.

"There is something really special about telling a historical story," says Mennite. "Marie was a real person, not just a character. Knowing her as someone's daughter, someone's wife, someone's mother, it brings a visceral element as a dancer and the audience will feel that too."

Welch aimed to tell the whole story of Marie Antoinette, showing one woman's complex struggle to protect her family, friends and nation. He has done so with the powerful blend of storytelling, artistry and choreography he is known for.

Transporting audiences to 18th century France, *Marie* is beautifully designed by Kandis Cook. The Canadian born designer created both costumes and scenic designs for Welch's work, making it the second time she had done so for Houston Ballet. Fit for any queen, her collection is both remarkably attune to the era and danceable for the modern-day Company.

Marie is comprised of compositions from Dmitri Shostakovich's rich body of work. Welch and Ermanno Florio, Houston Ballet's Music Director and Principal Conductor, spent more than 10 months compiling this exquisite score, later realizing the parallels between Shostakovich and the Queen. In addition to each of their persecutions, *Marie*'s closing at the guillotine accompanied by the Adagio from the Ballet Suite No. 2 came from *The Limpid Stream*. This would be the last ballet the 20th-century Russian composer would ever composed.

With every detail of *Marie* carefully thought out from every hand that has touched it, *Marie* is history in movement and not to be missed. Join Houston Ballet for the poignant and powerful return June 14-23 by reserving your seats now at HoustonBallet.org or 713.227.ARTS(2787).

ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET

Houston Ballet has evolved into a company of 60 dancers with a budget of \$33 million, making it the country's fifth largest ballet company. With a state-of-the-art performance space built especially for the company—also the largest professional dance facility in America—Houston Ballet's \$46.6 million Center for Dance opened in April 2011, with an endowment of just over \$74.1 million (as of July 2017).

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 makers such as Christopher Bruce, Alexander Ekman, William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Trey McIntyre, Julia Adam, Edwaard Liang, and George Balanchine. Executive Director James Nelson serves as the administrative leader of the company, a position he assumed in February 2012 after serving as the company's General Manager for more than a decade.

Houston Ballet has toured extensively both nationally and internationally. Over the past fifteen years, the company has appeared in renowned theaters in Dubai, London, Paris, Moscow, Spain, Montréal, Ottawa, Melbourne, New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and in cities large and small across the United States.

Houston Ballet's Education and Community Engagement Program reaches more than 60,000 individuals in the Houston area annually. Houston Ballet Academy teaches more than one thousand students every year, and approximately 50 percent of the current company was trained by the Academy.

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

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