



HoustonBallet
50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:
Jacalyn Lawton
Public Relations Manager
JLawton@houstonballet.org
Press@houstonballet.org

THE NUTCRACKER

PRESENTED BY HOUSTON
Methodist
LEADING MEDICINE

HOUSTON BALLET PREPARES FOR THE RETURN OF THE NUTCRACKER DURING ITS 50TH

WHO: Houston Ballet

WHAT: Stanton Welch's *The Nutcracker*

WHERE: Wortham Theater Center

WHEN: November 29 – December 29, 2019

TICKETS: \$30-\$200, On Sale Now at houstonballet.org or 713.227.ARTS(2787)

Nov. 29 - Dec. 29, 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
24	25	26	27	28	29 7:30 PM	30 2:00 PM 7:30 PM
1 2:00 PM	2	3	4	5	6	7 2:00 PM 7:30 PM
8 2:00 PM 7:30 PM	9	10	11 7:30 PM	12 7:30 PM	13 7:30 PM	14 2:00 PM 7:30 PM
15 2:00 PM 7:30 PM	16	17 7:30 PM	18 7:30 PM	19 7:30 PM	20 7:30 PM	21 2:00 PM 7:30 PM
22 2:00 PM 7:30 PM	23 2:00 PM 7:30 PM	24 2:00 PM	25	26 2:00 PM 7:30 PM	27 2:00 PM 7:30 PM	28 2:00 PM 7:30 PM
29 7:30 PM						

HOUSTON, TEXAS [October 10, 2019] — Houston Ballet prepares to bring back one of Houston's most cherished holiday productions, *The Nutcracker*. Houston Ballet Artistic Director Stanton Welch AM's version of this timeless classic returns to the stage for its fourth year on November 29, giving the public around a month of opportunities to experience this larger than life spectacular.

"The Nutcracker is for everyone, transcending age and culture. It's a tradition of warmth and togetherness that we take great pride in sharing with our community," says Welch.

Whimsy, imagination and adventure fill the stage and the hearts of more than 75,000 ballet goers during each annual production run. You don't have to know a pas de bourrée from a jeté to appreciate this ballet, but those that

do still return each season to relive the magic during one of the 37 performances. Three of the performances are dedicated to student matinees which expose children to the arts. The general public can see the ballet for a little as \$30 a ticket with 13 off-peak performance dates for family friendly pricing.

“Not only is this an opportunity for inclusivity with our community, but *The Nutcracker* provides roles to our entire company of dancers, Houston Ballet Academy students and young local dancers,” says Welch.

With hundreds of roles, Welch’s *The Nutcracker* offers the most opportunities in the Ballet’s body of work. All 61 Company dancers perform during the show run. The professionals are joined by 344 young dancers – 313 students from Houston Ballet Academy and 31 locals from its open audition.

Houston Ballet’s production of *The Nutcracker* is generously presented by Houston Methodist Hospital and sponsored in part by Apache Corporation, Baker Botts L.L.P., Bank of America, H-E-B, KPRC, Macy’s, Shell Oil Company, Tenenbaum Jewelers and United Airlines.

Join Houston Ballet for *The Nutcracker* November 29 – December 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.

###