

PENNSYLVANIA | BALLET

Pennsylvania Ballet Announces 2018-2019 Season

The 55th Season will feature three full-length ballets, and a mix of company and world premieres

Philadelphia, PA (February 20, 2018) Pennsylvania Ballet Artistic Director Angel Corella is thrilled to announce the programming for the 2018-2019 Season. The Company's captivating 55th Season will feature 13 ballets with five world premieres and three company premieres including two of ballet's most enduring love stories; *Romeo and Juliet* and *Giselle*. With the 2018-2019 Season, Corella continues to honor Pennsylvania Ballet's roots while igniting excitement for ballet and committing to new levels of excellence on stage.

"Next Season we will continue to bring new choreographers to Pennsylvania Ballet to excite our audience. We will also bring to life two full-length ballets, *Romeo & Juliet* and *Giselle*, and are proud to continue to honor our Balanchine roots with *Apollo*, *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*, and of course, our annual presentation of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*®," said Angel Corella. "By sharing such a diverse repertoire of performances displaying art, athleticism, beauty, and music, we hope to provide something for everyone to enjoy."

The 2018-2019 Season will include World Premieres by talented choreographers: Andrea Miller, artistic director and founder of Gallim Dance; Jorma Elo, one of the most sought-after choreographers in the world; Pennsylvania Ballet Choreographer in Residence Matthew Neenan; and Pennsylvania Ballet Company Member, Russell Ducker; as well as Angel Corella's re-staging of *Giselle*. In addition, Pennsylvania Ballet will present the company premieres of Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo & Juliet* as well as Jerome Robbins' *Glass Pieces* and *The Cage*. Rounding out the season are company favorites *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*®, *Apollo*, and *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*; Jiří Kylián's *Petite Mort*; and Christopher Wheeldon's *DGV: Danse a Grande Vitesse*.

Fall Season

Pennsylvania Ballet's 55th Season opens with one of the most beautiful full-length ballets, *Romeo & Juliet*. Only a few companies in the world can perform MacMillan's "masterful choreography" (*The Evening Standard*); Pennsylvania Ballet is thrilled to bring it to Philadelphia. This ground-breaking work embraces Shakespeare's passionate love story by focusing on the emotions of the characters and making them palpable for the audience. Monumental designs from set designer Paul Andrews paired with the romantic and timeless Prokofiev score make Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet* stand out as an expressive and emotionally moving piece.

In November, Pennsylvania Ballet presents a mixed-repertoire program of contemporary works at the forefront of ballet. Set to music by Mozart, Jiří Kylián's daring ***Petite Mort*** features six men and six women, and choreography that explores ideas of aggression, sexuality, energy, and vulnerability. The program will also feature a world premiere by eclectic choreographer **Andrea Miller**, founder and artistic director of Gallim Dance, and recipient of multiple awards for her visceral work, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, and currently serving as the artist in residence for the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Company is excited to debut work by Corps de Ballet Member **Russell Ducker**, who received three Royal Ballet School choreographic awards; Dame Ninette De Valois, Sir Kenneth MacMillan and The Ursula Moreton, which was also awarded to now well-known choreographers Christopher Wheeldon and Liam Scarlett.

What would the holidays be without **George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker***? From the exciting battle with the Mouse King to the variety of surprises that await in the Land of Sweets, join Marie and her Nutcracker prince for this magical journey. Featuring gorgeous sets and costumes and musical accompaniment from the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra and the Philadelphia Boys Choir, *The Nutcracker* has been a tradition for Philadelphia families for generations. Pennsylvania Ballet is proud to offer a specially adjusted sensory-friendly performance for the third year on the main stage of the Academy of Music.

Spring Season

Ballet's iconic story of love, betrayal, and redemption comes to life at the Academy of Music as Angel Corella presents his re-staging of ***Giselle***. This "quintessential romantic ballet" (*BroadwayWorld*) is one of the oldest-continually performed ballet works, touching audiences since its premiere in 1841. With sumptuous sets and costumes and the gorgeous score by Adolphe Adam, this is a piece not to be missed.

The April mixed-repertoire program is a tribute to one of the greatest ballet composers of all time, Igor Stravinsky. One of many collaborations between Stravinsky and choreographer George Balanchine, ***Apollo*** tells the story of Apollo, the Greek god of music. When it premiered in 1928, *Apollo* gained international acclaim, and brought a new aesthetic to ballet. Jerome Robbins' ***The Cage*** uses its Stravinsky score and dramatic choreography to bring to life a community of female creatures in a piece that "once seen, ...tends not to be forgotten" (*The New York Times*). Created in 1972 for New York City Ballet's Stravinsky Festival, Balanchine's ***Stravinsky Violin Concerto*** is another impeccable example of the famed collaborations between Balanchine and Stravinsky. Critically acclaimed Philadelphia-based choreographer **Matthew Neenan** will create his 18th world premiere for Pennsylvania Ballet after his very successful premiere of *It goes that way* in 2017.

The 2018/2019 season concludes in May with a mixed-repertoire program of three exciting ballets. This program brings back the audience favorite, Christopher Wheeldon's ***DGV: Danse à Grande Vitesse***. Set to Michael Nyman's *MGV: Musique à grand vitesse*, both the ballet and its score capture the dynamic energy of the French high-speed train that inspired them. **Jorma Elo** is one of the most sought-after choreographers in the world and has created works for companies including American Ballet Theatre, San Francisco Ballet, New York City Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet, among others. Jerome Robbins' ***Glass Pieces*** combine urban life and the minimalism of Philip Glass' music to create "a symbiotic, brilliant artistic experience" (*Critical Dance*).

Pennsylvania Ballet's 2018-2019 Season

***Romeo & Juliet* (Company Premiere)**

October 11-21, 2018

The Academy of Music

Choreography: Sir Kenneth Macmillan

Music: Sergei Prokofiev

Mixed Repertoire

November 8-11, 2018

Merriam Theater

- *Petite Mort* by Jiří Kylián, music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- Russell Ducker World Premiere
- Andrea Miller World Premiere

George Balanchine's The Nutcracker[®]

December 7-30, 2018

The Academy of Music

Choreography: George Balanchine

Music: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Giselle (World Premiere)

March 7-17, 2019

The Academy of Music

Staged by: Angel Corella

Music: Adolphe Adam

All Stravinsky Program

April 4-7, 2019

Merriam Theater

- *Apollo* by George Balanchine, music by Igor Stravinsky
- *The Cage* by Jerome Robbins, music by Igor Stravinsky (Company Premiere)
- *Stravinsky Violin Concerto* by George Balanchine, music by Igor Stravinsky
- Matthew Neenan World Premiere, music by Igor Stravinsky

Mixed Repertoire

May 9-12, 2019

The Academy of Music

- *DGV: Danse à Grande Vitesse*, by Christopher Wheeldon, music by music by Michael Nyman
- Jorma Elo World Premiere
- *Glass Pieces*, by Jerome Robbins, music by Philip Glass (Company Premiere)