BOSTON BALLET ANNOUNCES 2018–2019 SEASON
THE 55TH SEASON HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE
CHOREOGRAPHER WILLIAM FORSYTHE’S FIRST WORLD PREMIERE CREATED ON AN
AMERICAN COMPANY SINCE 1992 AND ROBBINS/BERNSTEIN CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE
WITH COMPANY PREMIERE OF GLASS PIECES

REVISED March 7, 2018 (BOSTON, MA) – Boston Ballet Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen
announces programming for the 2018–2019 season at the Boston Opera House. The season
opens with Genius at Play, a celebration of Jerome Robbins’ and Leonard Bernstein’s 100th
birthdays. Nissinen’s The Nutcracker returns to enchant audiences with its beloved characters
and brilliant dancing. The spring season includes an array of classical favorites and highly
anticipated premieres, starting with the first world premiere by world-renowned
choreographer William Forsythe created on an American company since 1992. Returning
favorites include George Balanchine’s Coppélia and Sir Frederick Ashton’s Cinderella. The
Company’s 55th season runs September 6, 2018 through June 9, 2019.

“Our upcoming season is a colorful celebration of all that’s great about dance,” said Artistic
Director Mikko Nissinen. “We’re presenting both the new and old with a reflection on Robbins
and Bernstein, who together created some of the most honest, human, and lively
masterpieces in dance. I am also thrilled to show audiences the cutting-edge of ballet
choreography by adding a brand new work by William Forsythe to our repertoire. We also have
the return of two enchanting audience favorites—Cinderella and Coppélia.”

Following a performance of Fancy Free with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood
Music Center on August 18, 2018, Boston Ballet continues the centennial celebration of the
storied friendship of choreographer Jerome Robbins and composer Leonard Bernstein. The
season opens September 6–16, with Genius at Play, an all-Robbins program featuring
Interplay, Fancy Free, and the Company premiere of Glass Pieces. Interplay is a brightly
colorful work for eight dancers to a jazz score by Morton Gould. Fancy Free was the first ballet
Robbins ever choreographed, with music by then up-and-coming composer Bernstein. It
depicts the antics of sailors on shore leave in New York City in the 1940s and was the
inspiration for their soon-to-follow Broadway musical On the Town. Infused with the buzz of
urban life, Glass Pieces is an electrifying work for 42 dancers set to music by Philip Glass.
Mikko Nissinen’s The Nutcracker returns to the Boston Opera House November 29-December 30. This annual production has become a delightful tradition for New England audiences and visitors.

Full on Forsythe opens the spring season, March 7–17, marking the third year of Boston Ballet’s five-year partnership with world-renowned choreographer William Forsythe. Boston Ballet will present Forsythe’s first world premiere created on an American company since 1992. The program also includes the North American premiere of Blake Works I, Forsythe’s 2016 work for Paris Opera Ballet. This exuberant work is set to music from GRAMMY-nominated British musician James Blake’s album “The Colour in Anything.” Also on the program is Pas/Parts 2018, which saw its Boston Ballet premiere in March 2018. Forsythe is also an established installation and film artist whose work has been presented at numerous museums around the world. The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston will present William Forsythe: Choreographic Objects, the artist’s first comprehensive U.S. exhibition, from October 31, 2018 through February 24, 2019.

Coppélia, George Balanchine’s lighthearted romantic comedy of mistaken identity, returns to delight audiences March 21-31. Legendary ballerina Alexandra Danilova helped Balanchine stage the ballet in 1974 from her own recollections of Marius Petipa’s 1884 production. Coppélia is based on the libretto by Charles Louis-Étienne Nuitter, after E.T.A. Hoffmann’s Der Sandmann. Dr. Coppélius is a toy-maker and magician who builds a life-like doll named Coppélia that he treats like a daughter. The beautiful doll is so realistic that Franz is smitten and tries to win her attention even though he is engaged to Swanilda. Jealous and frustrated, Swanilda sneaks into Dr. Coppélius’ workshop and impersonates the doll, leading Dr. Coppélius to believe that Coppélia has indeed come to life. Coppélia is performed to a score by Léo Delibes and features more than 24 Boston Ballet School students in Act III.

After a successful Company premiere in 2014, Sir Frederick Ashton’s Cinderella returns to enchant audiences May 10–June 8. Presented in three acts to a score by Sergei Prokofiev, Cinderella was Ashton’s first full-length work for Sadler’s Wells Ballet (which later became The Royal Ballet), and today it is still regarded as one of his greatest works. Cinderella’s two ill-tempered stepsisters are comedic characters traditionally performed by men, a role Ashton himself famously danced with The Royal Ballet for 27 years.

Rhapsody, a mixed-repertoire program, concludes the season May 16–June 9. Principal Dancer Paulo Arrais will present a world premiere titled ELA, Rhapsody in Blue, his first work choreographed for the Opera House stage. The work features 15 men and one central female dancer performing to George Gershwin’s sultry score. George Balanchine famously described his opulent Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 2 as a “contemporary tribute to [Marius] Petipa, ‘the father of classical ballet,’ and to Tchaikovsky, his greatest composer.” A series of ballet
miniatures by transformative Russian choreographer Leonid Yakobson completes the program, including his lyrical Pas de Quatre and sculptural Rodin, both of which premiered at BB@home during the 2015-2016 season. Yakobson’s Vestris, a work about 18th century “king of dance” Auguste Vestris, was originally choreographed for Mikhail Baryshnikov and makes its Company premiere.

Tickets for The Nutcracker will go on sale July 9. Single tickets for the 2018-2019 season will go on sale to the public starting July 23. Current subscribers may renew starting mid-February, and new subscribers and groups of 10 or more can order starting March 12. For more information, visit bostonballet.org or call 617.695.6955.

All performances take place at the Boston Opera House (539 Washington Street, Boston, MA, 02111):

**Genius at Play | September 6–16, 2018**
- *Interplay*
  - Music by Morton Gould
  - Choreography by Jerome Robbins

- *Fancy Free*
  - Music by Leonard Bernstein
  - Choreography by Jerome Robbins

- *Glass Pieces*
  - Boston Ballet Premiere
  - Music by Philip Glass
  - Choreography by Jerome Robbins

**The Nutcracker | November 29–December 30, 2018**
- Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
- Choreography by Mikko Nissinen

**Full on Forsythe | March 7–17, 2019**
- *Pas/Parts 2018*
  - Choreography by William Forsythe
  - Music by Thom Willems

- *World Premiere*
  - Choreography by William Forsythe
Blake Works I
North American Premiere
Choreography by William Forsythe
Music by James Blake

Coppélia | March 21–31, 2019
Music by Léo Delibes
Choreography by George Balanchine

Cinderella | May 10–June 8, 2019
Music by Sergei Prokofiev
Choreography by Sir Frederick Ashton

Rhapsody | May 16–June 9, 2019
ELA, Rhapsody in Blue
World Premiere
Music by George Gershwin
Choreography by Paulo Arrais

Yakobson Miniatures
Choreography by Leonid Yakobson
Rodin
Music by Claude Debussy, Alban Berg
Pas de Quatre
Music by Vincenzo Bellini
Vestris
Boston Ballet Premiere
Music by Gennadi Banshchikov

Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 2
Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Choreography by George Balanchine

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About Boston Ballet
Since 1963, Boston Ballet’s internationally acclaimed performances of classical, neo-classical, and contemporary ballets, combined with a dedication to world-class dance education and community initiative programs, have made the institution a leader in its field, with a 54-year history of promoting excellence and access to dance.
Under the leadership of Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen and Executive Director Meredith Max Hodges, the Company maintains a diverse repertoire, ranging from full-length ballets to new works by some of today’s finest choreographers. Boston Ballet’s second company, Boston Ballet II, is comprised of dancers who gain experience by performing with the Company and independently, presenting special programs to audiences throughout the Northeast.

Boston Ballet School, the official school of Boston Ballet, has a long-standing dedication to providing exceptional dance education and ballet training to students across three studios in Boston, Newton, and the North Shore. Led by Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen and Director Margaret Tracey, the School reaches more than 5,000 students (toddler to adult) each year through its four core programs: Children’s Program, Classical Ballet Program, Adult Dance Program, and Pre-Professional Program.

Boston Ballet’s Department of Education and Community Initiatives (ECI) provides programming, events, and activities that connect the community to dance. ECI reaches more than 4,000 individuals in Boston, North Shore, and the surrounding communities each year through Citydance, ECI on Location, Adaptive Dance, and other community programs.

For more information, please visit bostonballet.org.

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