

# BOSTON BALLET

MIKKO NISSINEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## MEDIA CONTACTS:

Toni Geheb, (617) 456-6236, [tbgeheb@bostonballet.org](mailto:tbgeheb@bostonballet.org)

Lillian I, (617) 456-6235, [li@bostonballet.org](mailto:li@bostonballet.org)

Sarah Gledhill, (617) 456-6264, [sgledhill@bostonballet.org](mailto:sgledhill@bostonballet.org)

## BOSTON BALLET ANNOUNCES 2017 BB@HOME SERIES

### PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT BOSTON BALLET'S NEW FIVE-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH WILLIAM FORSYTHE AND THE TALENT OF BOSTON BALLET II

**January 11, 2017** (BOSTON, MA)—Boston Ballet is pleased to announce its BB@home performance series for the 2016–2017 season. Boston Ballet II (BBII), Boston Ballet's second company, will present a range of diverse repertoire January 21–22, 2017 at 7:30 pm. On February 10, 2017 at 7:30 pm, BB@home: "Focus on Forsythe" will feature a conversation with world-renowned choreographer William Forsythe and Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen, with excerpts from Forsythe's masterpiece *Artifact*. All BB@home performances take place in Boston Ballet's grand rehearsal studio at its South End headquarters, which transforms into an intimate, state-of-the-art black box theater.

#### **BB@home with Boston Ballet II**

For the January BB@home, BBII will present George Balanchine's rarely-performed *Haieff Divertimento*, "an intimate, appealingly human gem" (Sarah Kaufman, *The Washington Post*). Other program highlights include Jaime Sierra's energetic, all-male ensemble work *LEGIÓN* with music by "avant garde" cellist Zoë Keating (Chrissie Dickinson, *Chicago Tribune*), and Laurie Jones' classical *Drigo Divertissements*, a work that "nurtures a joyous appetite for movement" (Jennifer Dunning, *The New York Times*). The young ensemble will also perform a preview of a newly commissioned work by Jill Johnson, Dance Director at Harvard University and dancer/collaborator with choreographer William Forsythe.

**Boston Ballet II**, the second company of Boston Ballet, is a two-year program featuring young, classically trained dancers on the cusp of their professional careers led by Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen and Associate Director of BBII Peter Stark. BBII performs extensively with the main Company at the Boston Opera House, in addition to their own touring engagements throughout the Greater Boston community. BBII alumni make up more than a third of the current Boston Ballet roster, and many others have gone on to professional careers in American and international companies, including The Royal Ballet, Nederlands Dans

Theater, American Ballet Theatre, Houston Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, and The National Ballet of Canada.

### **BB@home: “Focus on Forsythe”**

In 2016, Boston Ballet established a long-term partnership with William Forsythe, one of today’s most influential and innovative choreographers, and will become the first North American company to perform his full-length *Artifact*, “a viscerally thrilling celebration of classical dance” (Roslyn Sulcas, *The New York Times*). Forsythe will discuss his work and choreographic process with Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen, and the Company will present excerpts from *Artifact*. This BB@home program is a unique, intimate opportunity to hear from the master and see how his creative process comes to life. *Artifact* will be performed at the Boston Opera House February 23–March 5, marking the start of Boston Ballet’s five-year partnership with Forsythe.

**William Forsythe** is “widely recognized as one of the most important choreographers working today” (Roslyn Sulcas, *The New York Times*), and his work has been performed by virtually every major ballet company in the world. Forsythe danced with the Joffrey Ballet and Stuttgart Ballet, where he was appointed Resident Choreographer in 1976. He spent the next seven years of his career creating new work for Stuttgart and companies around the world. In 1984, he began a 20-year tenure as director of Ballet Frankfurt. He later served as the director of The Forsythe Company—a new, independent ensemble based in Dresden and Frankfurt am Main—which he directed from 2005 to 2015. Forsythe’s work continues to be commissioned by the world’s most prestigious companies, and he regularly gives lectures and workshops at universities and cultural institutions around the world. He is an Honorary Fellow at the Laban Centre for Movement and Dance in London and holds an Honorary Doctorate from The Juilliard School. Forsythe is a Professor of Dance and Artistic Advisor for the Choreographic Institute at the University of Southern California Gloria Kaufman School of Dance.

Tickets start at \$55. For more information about BB@home, visit [bostonballet.org/bb-at-home](http://bostonballet.org/bb-at-home) or call 617.695.6955.

**All BB@home performances take place at 19 Clarendon Street, Boston MA 02116:**

### **BB@home with Boston Ballet II**

Saturday, January 21 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 22 at 1:00 pm

*Haieff Divertimento*

Music: Alexei Haieff

Choreography: George Balanchine®

*New Work (excerpts)*

Choreography: Jill Johnson

LEGIÓN

Music: Zoë Keating

Choreography: Jaime Sierra

Drigo Divertissements

Music: Riccardo Drigo

Choreography: Laurie Jones

**BB@home: "Focus on Forsythe"**

Fri, Feb 10, 2017 at 7:30 pm

***The performance length for both BB@home programs is approximately 1 hour with no intermission.***

**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 53-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 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](http://bostonballet.org).

Boston Ballet gratefully acknowledges the following institutional partners:

Barr Foundation

Boston Cultural Council

The Boston Foundation

Klarman Family Foundation

Massachusetts Cultural Council

National Endowment for the Arts

###