



HoustonBallet

TWILIGHT PAS DE DEUX

*Choreography by Ben Stevenson O.B.E.
Staged by Claudio Muñoz
Music by Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)*

Madison Brown
Joan Sempere Martinez

World Premiere: June 15, 2002 at the International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi.

FINGERPRINTS

*Choreography by Stanton Welch AM
Staged by Kelly Myernick
Music by Kronos Quartet
Pieces of Africa -
"Mai Nozipo" ("Mother Nozipo")
"Tilliboyo" ("Sunset")
"Escalay" ("Waterwheel")
Costume Design by Kandis Cook
Lighting Design after Lisa Pinkham*

Yu-Chia Chang, Sienna Going, Lucy Kaplan, AvaGrace Mazuchowski

Nathaniel Geis, Peyton Gue, Aaron Orton, Garrett Yut

World Premiere: Cincinnati Ballet, November 2000.

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY, ACT III

Choreography after Marius Petipa
Staged by Claudio Muñoz
Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

The court is celebrating the wedding of Princess Aurora and Prince Florimund. Characters from other fairy tales have joined the celebration. After Aurora and Florimund's grand *pas de deux*, the occasion ends as the entire court joins in the finale.

Princess Aurora	Lexi Utz
Prince Florimund	Joan Sempere Martinez
Pas de Trois	AvaGrace Mazuchowski Lucy Kaplan Nathaniel Geis
The Ivan	Alexander Stevens (Mat) / Shinnosuke Yasuumi (Eve)
The White Cat	Madison Bevilacqua
Puss-in-Boots	Peyton Gue
Princess Florine	Madison Brown
The Bluebird	Garrett Yut
Little Red Riding Hood	Summer Edgley
Big Bad Wolf	Eli Waunch

There will be one 20 minute intermission in this evenings performance

ARTISTIC STAFF



STANTON WELCH AM, The Harris Masterson III Artistic Director

In July 2003, Australian Stanton Welch AM assumed leadership of Houston Ballet, America's fifth-largest classical ballet company. Since he took the helm of the company, Mr. Welch has revitalized Houston Ballet, bringing in new dancers, commissioning new works, and attracting a top-flight artistic staff. Mr. Welch has created works for such prestigious international companies as Houston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, America Ballet Theatre, The Australian Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet, and the Royal Danish Ballet.

Mr. Welch was born in Melbourne to Marilyn Jones OBE and Garth Welch AM, two of Australia's most gifted dancers of the 1960s and 1970s. In 1989, he was engaged as a dancer with The Australian Ballet, where he rose to the rank of leading soloist, performing various principal roles. He has also worked with internationally acclaimed choreographers such as Jiří Kylián, Nacho Duato, and Maurice Bejart. In 1995, Mr. Welch was named resident choreographer of The Australian Ballet. For his contributions to the world of dance, he was awarded the Order of Australia (AM) in June 2015.

For Houston Ballet, he has choreographed more than 20 works, including a new full-length narrative ballet *Marie* (2009), inspired by the life of the legendary Marie Antoinette, and spectacular staging's of *Swan Lake* (2006), *La Bayadère* (2010), *Romeo and Juliet* (2015), *Giselle* (2016), *The Nutcracker* (2016), and *Sylvia* (2019).

JULIE KENT, Artistic Director



Julie Kent joined Houston Ballet as Artistic Director in July of 2023. The longest serving Ballerina in American Ballet Theatre's 84-year history, she danced a vast repertoire of classical and neo-classical roles from 1985-2015, working closely with choreographers John Neumeier, Twyla Tharp, Lar Lubovitch, Stanton Welch AM, Alexei Ratmansky, Mark Morris, Nacho Duato, James Kudelka, Jorma Elo, Kevin McKenzie and others.

Ms. Kent also danced as an international Guest Artist with the Mariinsky Theatre, New York City Ballet, Teatro alla Scala, Stuttgart Ballet, Berlin Staatsballett, Australian Ballet, Houston Ballet, Bayerisches Staatsballett, Teatro Colon, Ballet de Santiago and Tokyo Ballet.

She won the Prix de Lausanne (1986), Erik Bruhn Prize (1993) and was the first American dancer ever to win the Prix Benois de la Danse (2000). In 2012, she received an Honorary Doctorate of Performing Arts from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and a "Lifetime Achievement Award" from *Dance Magazine* and was conferred an Honorary Doctorate from American University's College of Arts and Sciences in 2023.

Ms. Kent also starred in the films *Dancers* (1987) and *Centerstage* (2000).

From 2016-2023, she was Artistic Director of The Washington Ballet where she brought important classical and contemporary masterworks into the repertoire, commissioning over 26 world premieres.

She married Victor Barbee, former Associate Artistic Director and Principal Dancer at ABT and former Associate Artistic Director of The Washington Ballet, in 1996 and they have 2 children.



CLAUDIO MUÑOZ, *Ballet Master, Houston Ballet II/ Houston Ballet Teacher and Coach*

Claudio Muñoz joined Houston Ballet's Academy in 1999. Mr. Muñoz trained with a variety of choreographers, including John Cranko, George Balanchine, Ben Stevenson, and Ronald Hynd. During his career as a dancer, he filled principal roles in Peru, Uruguay, Argentina, and New York. In 1989 he founded the Chamber Ballet of Santiago. Mr. Muñoz has taught classes and seminars in Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, and the United States. He has worked as an instructor for the Ballet Nacional de Chile, Ballet de Santiago, and Ballet Nacional de Peru. The dancers Mr. Muñoz has coached have won the silver medal at the International Ballet Competition in Jackson (1990), third place in the Shanghai International Ballet Competition (1995) and first place at the Prix de Lausanne (2010).

In 1996, Mr. Muñoz was awarded "Best Teacher" at the Interdance Competition in Asuncion, Paraguay. Mr. Muñoz has staged a ballet for Ben Stevenson at Florida Ballet, and also staged Stanton Welch's work at Cincinnati Ballet and Tulsa Ballet. Mr. Muñoz also coaches Houston Ballet II students for the Prix de Lausanne and Beijing International Ballet Competition. In 2007 and 2011, he served as a judge for the Youth America Grand Prix competition in Mexico. In 2016 he was awarded the *Dance Teacher Award* by Dance Teacher Magazine.



KELLY MYERNICK KUBIN, *Principal Instructor*

Kelly Myernick received her early ballet training at The Susquehanna School of Ballet in Oneonta, New York and later Springs City Ballet in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In 1996, she became a student at Houston Ballet Academy, receiving the Michael Wasmund Memorial Award upon graduation. She enjoyed a 13-year career with Houston Ballet, retiring as a First Soloist in 2014. Through her career she danced a wide variety of classical and contemporary roles, originating the roles of "Gamzatti" in *La Bayadère* and "Myrtha" in *Giselle* in Houston Ballet productions. Her broad experience in contemporary repertoire led her to her current position with Houston Ballet Academy, teaching contemporary repertoire, choreography, and ballet technique. Her

teaching education includes an intensive with Netherlands Dans Theatre and workshops in Counter technique, Gaga technique, and Anatomy for Dancers. Ms. Myernick is a frequent guest speaker and teacher in the community for organizations such as Hope Stone, Inc. and Houston Ballet's Education and Community Engagement department.

ARTISTS OF HOUSTON BALLE II

Madison Bevilacqua, Madison Brown, Yu-Chia Chang, Summer Edgley, Nathaniel Geis, Sienna Going, Peyton Gue, Lucy Kaplan, Ayumi Kobayashi, AvaGrace Mazuchowski, Aaron Orton, Joan Sempere Martinez, Alexander Stevens, Lexi Utz, Alex Westerman, Shinnosuke Yassumi, Garrett Yut

ARTISTS OF HOUSTON BALLE ACADEMY

Eli Waunch

This School is authorized under Federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students.
