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THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE ANNOUNCES THEIR 2016-17 SEASON

An Exhilarating Season Includes World-Class International Dance Featuring Lizt Alfonso Dance Cuba, Dance Theater of Harlem, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg.

The Auditorium Theatre’s “Made in Chicago” Dance Series Returns With Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, Thodos Dance Chicago, and Giordano Dance Chicago.

The Auditorium Also Celebrates American Music With Susan Werner, Cole Porter’s 125th Birthday Celebration, Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, the 12th Anniversary of Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah and the Boston Pops Performs Gershwin.

CHICAGO, IL — The Auditorium Theatre announces another season of exciting, diverse programming which supports its commitment to presenting the finest performances in international and local dance, along with America’s most cherished music, to Chicago. Highlights of the Auditorium’s 2016-17 season include Cole Porter 125 – A Birthday Celebration, featuring Chicago singers and musicians; Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater in their “Made in Chicago” Dance Series debut; the return of Eifman Ballet’s Red Giselle; and a new, innovative ballet by Dance Theatre of Harlem’s Francesca Harper.

Discounted subscription packages and discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more are on sale now by calling 312.341.2300. Subscription packages are available online starting in mid-April at AuditoriumTheatre.org. Tickets to individual shows will go on sale later this year.

“We have created a unique and eclectic season featuring many of Auditorium Theatre’s favorite musicians and dance companies from the past decade,” says Charlie Gardner, Chairman of the Board of Directors. “The Auditorium Theatre has always been dedicated to featuring artists both from around the globe and right here in our backyard, and this year is no different. This is a season you won’t want to miss!”

2016 – 17 Season Sponsors

The Dance Season Sponsor is NIB Foundation. The 2016-17 Season is also made possible with support from the MacArthur Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council, and the Palmer House Hilton.

THE 2016 – 17 SEASON

On Stage With... SUSAN WERNER
Thursday, September 22 | 7:30PM

Part of the American Music Series
Singer-songwriter, Susan Werner, returns for her 9th Auditorium Theatre appearance where the audience sits right on the landmark stage in an intimate cabaret setting. Werner's skillful songs effortlessly slide between folk, jazz, and pop, all delivered with sassy wit and classic Midwestern charm. Throughout her expansive career, boundless versatility has emerged as a hallmark of Werner's talent, and has proven to be a quintessential ingredient of her engrossing musical persona. Werner was described by the Chicago Tribune as “a triply blessed artist who sings adroitly, plays the piano smartly and, best of all, writes songs of genuine distinction and high craft.”

The presentation of Susan Werner is made possible through the generosity of Patti Eylar, Charlie Gardner, Mel and Renee Katten, and Robert and Sue Wieseneck.

COLE PORTER 125 – A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
Saturday, September 24 | 7:30PM

Part of the American Music Series

The Auditorium Theatre celebrates the 125th birthday of Cole Porter, recognized as a master of the American Songbook with a career spanning five decades. His songs are still considered some of our country’s most popular and enduring - coupling lyrics filled with wit and sophistication and melodies of harmonic invention. This can’t-miss celebration, directed by Chicago’s favorite cabaret singer Joan Curto, is sure to be among the top Porter tributes in the country. The show will feature many of Porter’s most beloved songs, as well as some of his lesser known gems, performed by some of the best musicians and singers in Chicago including: Joan Curto, Paul Marinaro, Tammy McCann, Beckie Menzie, and Tom Michael, all accompanied by the City Lights Orchestra conducted by Rich Daniels.

ENSEMBLE ESPAÑOL SPANISH DANCE THEATER – FLAMENCO PASSION
Thursday, September 29 | 7:30PM

Part of the “Made in Chicago” Dance Series

Celebrating their 40th Anniversary, Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater returns to the Auditorium Theatre, making their debut in the “Made in Chicago” Dance Series, with the presentation of Founder & Artistic Director, Dame Libby Komaiko’s stunning work, Bolero. Set to the music of French composer Maurice Ravel's most famous work of the same name, Ensemble Español's Bolero was described as a “most phenomenal piece” and “extraordinary” by the Chicago Sun-Times. The company will also present Mil Clavos, a piece representing traditional Spanish dance in a modern context, referencing the “clavos,” or the nails that are pounded into the bottom of the dancer's shoes. It affirms that the "nail" that holds time-honored traditions and modern sensibilities together is found in the artist's dedication to their craft.

LIZT ALFONSO DANCE CUBA – CUBA VIBRA!
Saturday, November 5 | 7:30PM; Sunday, November 6 | 3PM

Part of the International Dance Series

It's a hot Havana night when Litz Alfonso Dance Cuba brings the heat to Chicago’s landmark stage in an irresistible fusion of cha-cha, rumba, conga, bolero and mambo, all the rhythms that vibrate the heart and fill the soul, in Cuba Vibra! With precise movement and incalculable cadence, 17 dancers fill the stage with flavorful finesse as they seamlessly dance in lockstep to the Afro-Cuban beats and vocal virtuosity of a 6-member, on-stage band plus one vocalist. Celebrating Cuban music and dance from the '50s to today, boisterous Latin rhythms electrify the air in Cuba Vibra!
The Auditorium Theatre Announces 2016 – 17 Season

The Auditorium Theatre Annual Gala Performance will be held Sunday, November 6 and includes the 3PM performance of Lizt Alfonso Dance Cuba’s Cuba Vibral followed by the Gala Reception and Dinner.

CHICAGO JAZZ PHILHARMONIC – THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER: BLACK AND BLUES
Friday, November 11 | 7:30PM

Part of the American Music Series

This summer, in preparation for the fall performance, members of the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, including Artistic Director Orbert Davis, will take a spectacular nine-day steamboat journey that explores the diversity and drama of the lower Mississippi River, giving them inspiration for Davis’ newest work, The Mississippi River: Black and Blues. The new piece will delve into the mighty river’s historic influence and the evolution of the music that traveled up the river birthing American Blues and Jazz.

DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM
Friday, November 18 | 7:30PM; Saturday, November 19 | 7:30PM
Sunday, November 20 | 3PM; One hour Student Matinee: Friday, November 18 | 11AM

Part of the International Dance Series

Dance Theatre of Harlem returns to the Auditorium Theatre with an eclectic evening of thrilling theatrical dance, including the Midwest premiere of the new un-named ballet by choreographer Francesca Harper with music by American composer, John Adams, performed with a live Chicago-based string quartet. Harper’s one-act ballet is being created in a collaborative manner with Dance Theatre of Harlem dancers, and explores artists’ reaction to the social situation in America, specifically on the topics of race, gender, and economics.

The presentation of Dance Theatre of Harlem is made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

TOO HOT TO HANDEL: THE JAZZ-GOSPEL MESSIAH
Saturday, January 14 | 7:30PM; Sunday, January 15 | 3PM
One hour Student Matinee: Friday, January 13 | 11AM

Part of the American Music Series

Soloists Rodrick Dixon, Alfreda Burke and Karen Marie Richardson join legendary pianist Alvin Waddles as they return to the Auditorium Theatre to perform in Chicago’s 12th annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday weekend presentation of Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah. This high-energy production, based on George Frideric Handel’s Messiah, pairs the traditional classical score with jazz, gospel, and blues. The performance also includes the 100 voices of the city-wide Too Hot Choir under the direction of Old St. Pat’s Music Director of Concert Choirs, Bill Fraher, and a 45-piece symphony orchestra and jazz ensemble conducted by Suzanne Mallare Acton.

THODOS DANCE CHICAGO
Saturday, March 11 | 7:30PM

Part of the “Made in Chicago” Dance Series
The Auditorium Theatre Announces 2016 – 17 Season

The “Made in Chicago” Dance Series continues in the spring of 2017 with the 25th Anniversary Performance of the acclaimed Thodos Dance Chicago. This highly charged company with its vibrant, award-winning style presents an exhilarating evening of dance that will celebrate the rich American voice in dance both currently and historically. This performance features guest artist world premieres from the national landscape of contemporary dance, and cutting edge current work by Founder and Artistic Director Melissa Thodos.

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER
Wednesday, March 22 | 7:30PM; Thursday, March 23 | 7:30PM; Friday, March 24 | 7:30PM
Saturday, March 25 | 2PM & 8PM; Sunday, March 26 | 3PM
One hour Student Matinees: Thursday, March 23 | 11AM; Friday, March 24 | 11AM

Part of the International Dance Series

The Auditorium Theatre has been Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s home for over 46 years and is an annual Chicago tradition. Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, whose new work, Awakening, recently made its Chicago debut to rave reviews, this diverse company blends ballet, modern dance, jazz, and African dance techniques. As America’s “Cultural Ambassador to the World,” audiences can expect favorites, including the company’s signature piece, Revelations, along with some new works.

BOSTON POPS – BY GEORGE! THE POPS PLAYS GERSHWIN
Friday, March 31 | 7:30PM

Part of the American Music Series

Experience a night of George Gershwin with Conductor Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops as they bring their own unique swagger to a rarely-heard original orchestration of Rhapsody in Blue, performing the music as Gershwin first heard it, on stage with the musicians of the Paul Whiteman Orchestra. Then, the Pops presents the world-premiere performance of a reconstruction of Paul Whiteman's tight and jazzy version of An American in Paris, performed as it was in the 1920s. The Pops opens the Great American Songbook, and goes right to the heart of it with such Gershwin classics as The Man I Love, They Can't Take That Away From Me, and Let's Call the Whole Thing Off. The Pops brings you Gershwin as you've never heard it before...the music of America's most original composer played by America's Orchestra!

EIFMAN BALLET OF ST. PETERSBURG – RED GISELLE
Friday, May 19 | 7:30PM; Saturday, May 20 | 7:30PM; Sunday, May 21 | 2PM

Part of the International Dance Series

Eifman Ballet returns to present the company’s renowned dramatic ballet, Red Giselle, which was described as “diabolically exciting” by the Chicago Tribune when it made its Chicago debut at the Auditorium Theatre in 2000. Boris Eifman’s choreographic imagination has immortalized the history of great Russian ballerina Olga Spessivtseva (1895-1991), whose expatriation and personal tragedies led her to a mental asylum, where she lived forgotten for decades. Eifman’s extraordinary, expressive choreography and inexhaustible imagination paired with opulent sets and costumes bring this tragic tale to life.

GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO
Saturday, June 10 | 7:30PM

Part of the “Made in Chicago” Dance Series
Once again, closing the Auditorium Theatre’s Season is America’s original jazz dance company and iconic cultural treasure, **Giordano Dance Chicago**. Giordano Dance lights up the stage with its signature power, elegance, athleticism, and unparalleled energy. Now in its landmark 54th season, the company creates innovative choreography, often redefining and expanding the very definition of American jazz dance. Audience members will be taken on a wide-ranging journey of emotional, musical, and beautiful dance styles as Giordano Dance Chicago present a diverse program of works from their critically-acclaimed and exciting repertoire.

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**About The Auditorium Theatre**

The **Auditorium Theatre**, located at 50 E. Congress Pkwy, is an Illinois, not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural, community and educational programming to Chicago, and to the continued restoration and preservation of the National Historic Landmark. In September of 2014, the Auditorium Theatre was awarded the inaugural **Fifth Star Award** by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

For more information about programming, volunteer and donor opportunities or theatre tours, call 312.341.2310 or visit AuditoriumTheatre.org. For a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please click here.

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