THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR GRAND RE-OPENING WITH ONE-NIGHT-ONLY PERFORMANCE FEATURING PREMIER DANCERS FROM TOP COMPANIES AROUND THE WORLD

THE EVENING INCLUDES PERFORMANCES BY DANCERS FROM ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER, AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE, DUTCH NATIONAL BALLET, THE JOFFREY BALLET, NEW YORK CITY BALLET, THE WASHINGTON BALLET, AND FINALISTS FROM YOUTH AMERICA GRAND PRIX

A Golden Celebration of Dance – November 12, 2017

Ballet. In addition, the evening will feature special performances by finalists from the Youth America Grand Prix, the next generation of great dancers.

In 1941, the Auditorium Theatre closed its doors to the public in the wake of the Great Depression. Aside from when it was used as a servicemen's center during World War II, the theatre sat unused and in disrepair, until a 7-year-long fundraising campaign – led by Beatrice Spachner and the Auditorium Theatre Council – covered the costs of theatre renovation, culminating with a grand re-opening on October 31, 1967. That historic evening, the Auditorium Theatre hosted New York City Ballet for A Midsummer Night's Dream, starring principal dancers Edward Villella and Suzanne Farrell, who will serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the 50th anniversary celebration.

While the Auditorium Theatre has presented dance since its opening in 1889 (including performances by Anna Pavlova and Isadora Duncan), the re-opening in 1967 began an unprecedented new dance chapter that continues to this day. The theatre has since hosted companies including the Bolshoi Ballet, The Royal Ballet, and Martha Graham Dance Company, as well as many of the companies represented at A Golden Celebration of Dance.

“The Auditorium Theatre’s grand re-opening 50 years ago helped usher in one of the most exciting eras of dance in Chicago,” says Tania Castroverde Moskalenko, Auditorium Theatre CEO. “I am thrilled to commemorate this momentous occasion with such a special evening that will bring so much talent from around the world to our historic stage. This is an amazing opportunity for our patrons to experience an incredible array of top-tier performances over the course of one unforgettable night.”

Dancers for the Golden Celebration performance include American Ballet Theatre principal dancers Daniil Simkin and Maria Kochetkova, performing the grand pas de deux from Marius Petipa’s Don Quixote, with Simkin also performing the solo piece Les Bourgeois by Ben Van Cauwenbergh; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Solomon Dumas performing Robert Battle's Takademe; and The Joffrey Ballet's Victoria Jaiani and Temur Suluashvili performing a pas de deux from Yuri Possokhov's Bells. New York City Ballet principal dancers Daniel Ulbricht and Megan Fairchild will perform a pas de deux from the company's repertory. The Washington Ballet's Brooklyn Mack also will perform.

Other program highlights include dancers from the acclaimed Dutch National Ballet performing a pas de deux from Ted Brandsen's Mata Hari, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago performing Crystal Pite's Solo Echo, dancers from The Suzanne Farrell Ballet performing a pas de deux from George Balanchine's Meditation, members of the dance-illusionist company MOMIX performing the piece Skiva, and dancers from Parsons Dance performing David Parsons' work Caught (set to music by Robert Fripp). Dancers from Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg also will perform.

Many of the companies whose dancers will present pieces during A Golden Celebration of Dance have a rich history with the Auditorium Theatre: American Ballet Theatre first performed at the Auditorium in 1969 and returned for many engagements, their most recent in the fall of 2014; Alvin Alley American Dance Theater began its Chicago residency with the Auditorium in 1969; and The Joffrey Ballet began performing at the theatre in 1968 before becoming the theatre's resident company in 1969.
company in 1998. New York City Ballet, who performed at the theatre's re-opening, first appeared on the theatre's stage in 1941. Hubbard Street Dance Chicago performed at the theatre multiple times throughout the 1980s and 1990s, and returns for its first full-evening engagement in 20 years in March 2018. Eifman Ballet had its first engagement at the Auditorium in 2000.

The Auditorium Theatre's 2017 Annual Gala will take place immediately preceding the performance at the Standard Club. The gala includes tickets to the Golden Celebration of Dance performance. The Auditorium Theatre honors Sonia Florian of the NIB Foundation with the second annual Adler and Sullivan Award, recognizing her dedication to the arts and the Auditorium Theatre.

**NIB FOUNDATION – International Dance Series Sponsor**

**PASQUINELLI FAMILY FOUNDATION – Gala Sponsor**

**About the Dancers**

**Solomon Dumas** (Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater)

Solomon Dumas (originally from Chicago) joined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 2016. He was introduced to the company through the AlileyCamp program in Chicago. Dumas was a member of Ailey II before joining the main company, and has also performed with Garth Fagan Dance and Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE.

**Daniil Simkin and Maria Kochetkova** (American Ballet Theatre)

Daniil Simkin joined American Ballet Theatre as a soloist in October 2008 and became a principal dancer in December 2012. His repertoire with the company includes Basilio in *Don Quixote*; Franz in *Coppélia*; and Romeo, Mercutio, and Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Maria Kochetkova joined American Ballet Theatre as a principal dancer in 2015. Her repertoire with the company includes Princess Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Odette-Odile in *Swan Lake*, and the title role in *Giselle*. She also performs with the San Francisco Ballet.

**Victoria Jaiani and Temur Suluashvili** (The Joffrey Ballet)

Victoria Jaiani joined The Joffrey Ballet in 2003. She has danced leading roles in productions including Frederick Ashton's *Cinderella*, Lar Lubovitch's *Othello*, and Christopher Wheeldon's *Swan Lake*.

Temur Suluashvili joined The Joffrey Ballet in 2003. He has danced leading roles in productions including Frederick Ashton's *Cinderella*, Yuri Possokhov's *Don Quixote*, and Christopher Wheeldon's *Swan Lake*.

**Daniel Ulbricht and Megan Fairchild** (New York City Ballet)

Daniel Ulbricht joined New York City Ballet in 2001 and was promoted to the role of soloist and principal dancer in May 2007. His featured roles with the company include Oberon and Puck in Balanchine’s *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Fall in Jerome Robbins’ *The Four Seasons*, and the Jester in Peter Martins' *Swan Lake*.

Megan Fairchild joined New York City Ballet in 2001. She was promoted to soloist in 2004 and to principal dancer in 2005. Her featured roles with the company include the Sugarplum Fairy in George Balanchine’s *The Nutcracker™*, Winter in Jerome Robbins’ *The Four Seasons*, and Aurora in Peter Martins’ *The Sleeping Beauty*.

**Brooklyn Mack** (The Washington Ballet)
Brooklyn Mack joined The Washington Ballet in 2009. In 2014, he performed the role of Prince Siegfried in The Washington Ballet’s *Swan Lake*, with Misty Copeland from ABT performing the role of Odette-Odile. He also has performed in The Washington Ballet’s production of *Giselle* and in English National Ballet’s *Le Corsaire*.

**Performance Information**

A Golden Celebration of Dance | The 50th Anniversary of the Auditorium Theatre’s Re-Opening

Sunday, November 12 | 7:30PM

Tickets start at $41 and are available online at [AuditoriumTheatre.org](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org), by phone at 312.341.2300, or in person at the Auditorium Theatre Box Office (50 E Congress Parkway). A Golden Celebration of Dance is part of the International Dance Series, which offers a 30% discounted subscription. The evening may also be added to the Select Your Own subscription, discounted at 20-25%. Discounts available for groups of 10+.

For tickets or tables to the 2017 Fall Gala on Sunday, November 12 at 4PM, please contact Kelly Saroff by phone at 312.341.2364 or via email at ksaroff@auditoriumtheatre.org.

**Auditorium Theatre’s 2017-18 Season Upcoming Performances**

October 6: [Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org)

October 18-29: [The Joffrey Ballet – Giselle](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org)

October 30: [Hillary Clinton Live](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org)

November 1: [David Sedaris](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org)


November 4: [Pedro Fernández](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org)

November 12: [A Golden Celebration of Dance](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org)

November 17: [Ella & Lena: The Ladies and Their Music](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org)

November 18: [The Legend of Zelda: Symphony of the Goddesses](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org)

November 21: [Mayday](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org)

**About The Auditorium Theatre**

The Auditorium Theatre, located at 50 E Congress Pkwy in Chicago, is an Illinois, not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural, community, and educational programming to all of Chicago and beyond as The Theatre for the People. The organization also is committed to the continued restoration and preservation of the National Historic Landmark.

The Auditorium Theatre 2017-18 Season is made possible in part with support from the MacArthur Foundation and the Palmer House Hilton. Michigan Avenue is the official magazine sponsor. For more information about programming, volunteer, and donor opportunities or theatre tours, call 312.341.2310 or visit [AuditoriumTheatre.org](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org). For a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please click [here](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org).
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