LES BALLETS DE MONTE-CARLO MAKES AUDITORIUM THEATRE DEBUT WITH THE SLEEPING BEAUTY (LA BELLE), A SPELLBINDING REIMAGINING OF THE CLASSIC FAIRY TALE

Artistic Director Jean-Christophe Maillot’s Take on Marius Petipa’s Ballet Is Thought-Provoking and Visually Stunning

Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, the national ballet company of Monaco, comes to the Auditorium Theatre for the first time March 3 and 4 with The Sleeping Beauty (La Belle), a spellbinding re-imagining of the classic fairy tale. The company, established in 1985 by Caroline, Princess of Hanover, honors the dance history of Monaco begun by Sergei Diaghilev and the Ballet Russes in the early 1900s.

"Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo continues the great dance traditions begun by Diaghilev and his Ballet Russes, who performed at the Auditorium Theatre in 1916," says Tania Castroverde Moskalenko, Auditorium Theatre CEO. "More than a hundred years later, we are still the premier venue for dance in Chicago, and we are excited to welcome Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo to our historic stage.”
When creating *The Sleeping Beauty (La Belle)* in 2001, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo Artistic Director Jean-Christophe Maillot took his inspiration from Charles Perrault’s original version of the story, which focuses on the lesser-known second half of the tale and what happens when “happily ever after” turns out to be not so happy. Set to the classic score by Tchaikovsky, this twist on Marius Petipa’s classic ballet is haunting and thought-provoking, with visually-stunning sets and intricate costumes.

Maillot joined Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo as Artistic Director in 1993 and has created more than 30 ballets for the company, including *The Sleeping Beauty (La Belle)*, *The Taming of the Shrew, Opus 50*, and *Scheherazade*. Under Maillot’s direction, the company also has performed works by contemporary choreographers including Alonzo King, Alexander Ekman, Shen Wei, William Forsythe, and more.

In Maillot’s version of *The Sleeping Beauty*, a young prince learns the story of a princess in a nearby palace. The princess, cursed by the evil fairy Carabosse as a young child, pricked her finger on a spindle and fell into a deep slumber. The Prince resolves to rescue the sleeping Beauty and sets off for her castle. Once he arrives, he awakens her and instantly falls in love, marrying her in secret. When the Prince becomes King just a few years later, his marriage to the Beauty is revealed, much to the ire of the Queen Mother (performed by the same dancer who portrays Carabosse) – who happens to be an ogress. The Beauty, now a queen herself, must contend with her mother-in-law while protecting her children.

"The superb Monte-Carlo dancers work their material to the hilt." – The Guardian

"Under choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot, the company has forged ahead on its own terms." – Financial Times

"Les Ballets is a contemporary ballet company, but its dancers are beautiful classicists."

– Huffington Post

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**Performance Information**

**Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo – The Sleeping Beauty (La Belle)**

Saturday, March 3 | 7:30PM
Sunday, March 4 | 2PM

Tickets start at $41 and are available online at AuditoriumTheatre.org, by phone at 312.341.2300, or in person at the Auditorium Theatre Box Office (50 E Congress Pkwy). *The Sleeping Beauty (La Belle)* is part of the International Dance Series (which also includes Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ballet Nacional de Cuba) and the March Madness Series (which also includes Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago), offering 30% discounted subscriptions. Performances may also be added to the Create Your Own Series subscription, discounted at 20-25%. Discounts available for groups of 10+.

**For press photos, please visit the Auditorium Theatre’s Press Center.**

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

January 13-14: *Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah*

January 27: *Pedro Fernández*
February 7-18: The Joffrey Ballet – Modern Masters
February 23: Shhh...It's Trivia Night!
March 3-4: Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo – The Sleeping Beauty (La Belle)
March 7-11: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
March 14: VIVID 2018: CCPA Annual Showcase
March 17: ICCA Great Lakes Semifinals, presented by Varsity Vocals
March 18: Louder Than A Bomb
March 23-24: Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

About The Auditorium Theatre

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 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, the Illinois Arts Council, 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. For a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please click here.

Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, photos by Alice Blangero. | Auditorium Theatre, photo by Frank Orrico.