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AFTER 37 YEARS, THE ROYAL BALLET RETURNS TO CHICAGO AT THE
AUDITORIUM THEATRE WITH CARLOS ACOSTA’S “DON QUIXOTE” JUNE 18 – 21, 2015

Led by Kevin O’Hare, the Company Makes Auditorium Debut During Three-City Tour of U.S.

Co-chaired by Jay Franke and David Herro, The Royal Ballet Gala Celebration Takes Place at
the Chicago Athletic Association Hotel June 16

CHICAGO — The Royal Ballet returns to Chicago after a 37-year-absence with their critically-acclaimed performance of Carlos Acosta’s “Don Quixote” June 18 – 21. Under the leadership of Kevin O’Hare, the company will make its Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University debut as part of a three-city U.S. tour which also includes The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets ($32 – $137) are on sale now and available online at AuditoriumTheatre.org, by calling (800) 982-ARTS (2787) or at the Auditorium Theatre Box Office (50 E. Congress Pkwy).

“Concluding our monumental 125th Anniversary International Dance Series, it is my extreme pleasure to welcome back The Royal Ballet to Chicago after a long absence. Seeing the company perform on our landmark stage will be a memory of a lifetime for all of us,” said Auditorium Theatre Executive Director Brett Batterson. “The Royal Ballet will bring the finest dancers in the world to Chicago and we are honored to be one of three venues throughout the entire country presenting this esteemed company on their North-American tour.”

Royal Ballet Principal Guest Artist Carlos Acosta’s production of “Don Quixote” was created especially for The Royal Ballet in 2013. The epic story ballet follows the adventures of bumbling knight Don Quixote, accompanied by his ever-faithful squire Sancho Panza, as he embarks on a quest for his ideal woman. Along the way, Don Quixote stumbles upon lovers, Kitri and Basilio, who, despite their longing to marry one another, are unable due to Kitri’s father, Lorenzo, who wants her to marry the wealthy Gamache. A journey ensues as the lovers try to escape their planned lives while Don Quixote tries to right the wrongs of the world.

“I am delighted to bring The Royal Ballet back to Chicago as part of our US Tour in 2015,” said O’Hare. “The Company has a long history of performing in North America and we’ve always been made to feel very welcome by our American audiences. The Royal Ballet hasn’t visited Chicago since 1978 so with this ballet, we plan to showcase the depth of the dancers’ talent led by our world-class roster of principals. We are also honored to be part of such a special season as the Auditorium Theatre celebrates 125 years.”

Acosta’s unique and vibrant production—with new choreography—features designs by Tony Award-winning Tim Hatley, creating a dynamic, sun drenched ballet as well as an original score
The Royal Ballet Returns to The Auditorium after 37 Years with “Don Quixote” June 18 - 21

by Ludwig Minkus that has been arranged and orchestrated by Royal Ballet Conductor Martin Yates.

The Auditorium Theatre’s International Dance Series is sponsored by the NIB Foundation.

Additional support for The Royal Ballet’s “Don Quixote” provided by the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation.

The Saturday evening performance is made possible through the generosity of Helen Hall Melchior. The Sunday performance is made possible through the generosity of Patti Selander Eylar.

Program Schedule, Principal Casting (Kitri and Basilio) and Ticket Information

Thursday, June 18 | 7:30 pm
Marianela Nuñez, Carlos Acosta

Friday, June 19 | 7:30 pm
Sarah Lamb, Federico Bonelli

Saturday, June 20 | 2:00 pm
Akane Takada, Vadim Muntagirov

Saturday, June 20 | 7:30 pm
Iana Salenko, Steven McRae

Sunday, June 21 | 2:00 pm
Natalia Osipova, Matthew Golding

Tickets ($32 – $137) are available online at AuditoriumTheatre.org, by calling (800) 982-ARTS (2787) or in-person at Auditorium Theatre’s Box Office (50 E. Congress Pkwy). Discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more are available at (312) 341-2357 or sales@auditoriumtheatre.org.

The Royal Ballet Gala Celebration

Celebrating the return of The Royal Ballet after a 37-year absence, as well as the extraordinary caliber of dance over the past 125 years, the Auditorium Theatre will host a special gala in honor of the ballet’s historic visit on Tuesday, June 16. Guests are invited to the new Chicago Athletic Association Hotel (12 S Michigan) at 6:00 pm where they will be treated to cocktails and dinner with Royal Ballet dancers and members of the artistic staff. Jay Franke and David Herro are the gala co-chairs. British Consul General Stephen and Mrs. Kim Bridges are the evening’s honorary chairs. Individual tickets ($350) and tables (starting at $3,500) are available now. For tickets and more information, please call Amanda Byrne at (312) 341-2364 or email abyrne@auditoriumtheatre.org.

Auditorium Theatre’s 2014 – 15 Season
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The Auditorium Theatre 2014 – 15 Season also includes “His Way – Sinatra’s Centennial Celebration” (May 30); A.R. Rahman (May 31); and Jake Shimabukuro with The City Lights Orchestra (June 24). For a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, including the 2015-16 Season, please click here.

125th Anniversary Season Sponsors

The Auditorium Theatre would like to thank their 125th Anniversary Season Sponsors: Lead Corporate Sponsor Nicor Gas, Lead Foundation Sponsor Robert R. McCormick Foundation and David D. Hiller, International Dance Series Sponsor NIB Foundation, and “Made in Chicago” Dance Series sponsor The Boeing Company. Media sponsors include Chicago Magazine and WXRT, and the Pasquinelli Family Foundation is the Gala Dinner Celebration Sponsor. Student Matinee Series Sponsors for the 2014 – 15 Season include The Private Bank and The Robert Thomas Bobins Foundation.

About the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 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 Auditorium Theatre. 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. On December 9, 2014, the Auditorium Theatre celebrated its 125th Birthday with a proclamation from the City of Chicago declaring it “Auditorium Theatre Day.” For the first time in over 50 years, the NFL Draft returned to Chicago, which took place at the Auditorium Theatre April 30 – May 2.

The Auditorium Theatre is generously supported by the MacArthur Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council, the Sage Foundation, and the Palmer House Hilton. For more information about programming, volunteer and donor opportunities or theatre tours, call (312) 341-2310 or visit AuditoriumTheatre.org.

About The Royal Ballet

The Royal Ballet is Great Britain’s most prestigious ballet company based at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Now under the direction of Kevin O’Hare, the Company owes its existence to the vision of dancer, teacher, choreographer and entrepreneur Dame Ninette de Valois. de Valois assembled a small company and school, and in 1931 persuaded theatre producer and manager Lilian Baylis to provide a base for the Company at the Sadler’s Wells Theatre in North London. The Company also performed at the Old Vic Theatre, hence its original name of the Vic-Wells Ballet. In October 1949, the Company made its first major overseas tour to the USA and Canada, taking New York by storm with its new “Sleeping Beauty.” In 1956, to mark its 25th anniversary, the name The Royal Ballet was granted by Royal Charter.

The Company’s repertory is wide-ranging including the great classical ballets – “The Sleeping Beauty,” “The Nutcracker,” “Swan Lake” and “Giselle,” for example – alongside The Royal Ballet’s own heritage works – ballets by Founder Choreographer Frederick Ashton, Principal Choreographer Kenneth MacMillan and Founder Ninette de Valois. There are also works by
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such choreographic giants as George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins and John Cranko, and new ballets by the foremost international choreographers of today. Recently, these have included full-length narrative works from Christopher Wheeldon – “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” (2011) and “The Winter’s Tale” (2014) – and critically acclaimed ballets by Wayne McGregor, Liam Scarlett and a host of visiting choreographers.

Over the years, The Royal Ballet has produced some of the greatest figures in ballet history—Margot Fonteyn, Antoinette Sibley, Anthony Dowell and Darcey Bussell to name but a few—and its works have become staples in the repertories of all of the major ballet companies. Thanks to the tremendous variety of its work, and the versatility and theatricality of its dancers and choreographers, the Company today continues to grow as a global force in the world of dance.