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AUDITORIUM THEATRE
of ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

50 E Congress Pkwy
Chicago, IL
AuditoriumTheatre.org

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BALLET NACIONAL DE CUBA COMES TO CHICAGO FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 15 YEARS TO PERFORM ON THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE'S LANDMARK STAGE

Company Brings the Legendary *Don Quixote* Ballet to Life with a Cuban Spin

Just Announced: Chicago Philharmonic Performs Ludwig Minkus' Classic Score

Ballet Nacional de Cuba — *Don Quixote* on May 18-20, 2018

"[Fall] in love with ballet all over again … Don Quixote *is a fiesta for firebrands, and the Cubans did not disappoint."* – The Washington Post

"The Cuban company is a fusion of Russian technique, Spanish soul, and Afro-Caribbean pizzazz." — The New Yorker

Ballet Nacional de Cuba returns to Chicago for the first time in 15 years May 18-20 with company director **Alicia Alonso's** acclaimed version of *Don Quixote*, accompanied by the

Chicago Philharmonic.

"Don Quixote is an exciting and beloved ballet danced by the best companies in the world, and Ballet Nacional de Cuba has created a truly distinguished production that showcases Cuban dance traditions while respecting the integrity of the classic story ballet," says **Tania Castroverde Moskalenko**, Auditorium Theatre CEO. "I am also thrilled to have the Chicago Philharmonic joining us to perform Ludwig Minkus' beautiful score, which will elevate the ballet to new heights."

Ballet Nacional de Cuba combines the best of European ballet culture with Cuban customs, honoring romantic and classical traditions. Founded in 1948 by iconic ballerina Alicia Alonso, Ballet Nacional de Cuba has gained international recognition with a wide-ranging repertoire that includes classic ballets such as *Diana y Acteon*, *Giselle*, and *Esmerelda*, as well as newer works by contemporary choreographers Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and Peter Quanz. The company has toured around the world, performing in China, Spain, Holland, and more.

Alonso's *Don Quixote*, which premiered in 1988, is loosely based on the original tale by Miguel de Cervantes. Inspired by the choreography of **Marius Petipa** and **Alexander Gorsky,** *Don Quixote* is a love story that follows Kitri and Basilio, two star-crossed lovers who are determined to be together despite Kitri's betrothal to another man. Don Quixote, a knight who arrives in town, attempts to help the lovers with the assistance of his squire, Sancho Panza, while also searching for his own lost love, the beautiful Dulcinea.

Giovanni Duarte, Ballet Nacional de Cuba's music director, conducts the Chicago Philharmonic for the *Don Quixote* performances. Duarte is the director of the orchestra of the Gran Teatro de La Habana, and has been a guest conductor with the National Ballet of China Symphony Orchestra, the San Diego Symphony, and the Pacific Symphony, among others.

The Chicago Philharmonic has been called "one of the country's finest symphonic orchestras" by the Chicago Tribune. The Chicago Philharmonic Society is a collaboration of over 200 of the highest-level classical musicians performing in the Chicago metropolitan area. Governed under a groundbreaking structure of musician leadership, the Society presents concerts at venues throughout the Chicago area that cover the full spectrum of classical music, from Bach to Bernstein and beyond. Founded nearly 30 years ago, the Chicago Philharmonic currently serves as the official orchestra of The Joffrey Ballet, continues its 25-year association with the Ravinia Festival, is a resident company of Harris Theater Chicago, and performs at Auditorium Theatre, Symphony Center, and other the great concert halls of the Chicago and North Shore area. In 2018, the Illinois Council of Orchestras awarded the Chicago Philharmonic "Orchestra of the Year."

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Performance Information

Ballet Nacional de Cuba – *Don Quixote*

Friday, May 18 | 7:30PM
Saturday, May 19 | 7:30PM
Sunday, May 20 | 3PM

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). Discounts available for groups of 10+.

The Auditorium Theatre also offers $15 student rush tickets to full-time college students, and $5 tickets to young people ages 13-19 with Urban Gateways' Teen Arts Pass program. The Auditorium

Theatre's ADMIT ONE program, launched in 2016, offers complimentary tickets to Chicago area community groups.

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

Auditorium Theatre's 2017-18 Season Upcoming Performances

April 25-May 6: The Joffrey Ballet – *Midsummer Night's Dream*

April 30: Alphawood Presents: *A Conversation with Ai Weiwei*

May 18-20: Ballet Nacional de Cuba – *Don Quixote*

May 25: All Black Affair – Memorial Day Weekend R&B Music Fest

June 1-3: David Byrne

June 9: Giordano Dance Chicago

June 21: A Conversation with President Bill Clinton

June 23: Devil's Ball: The Stage Is Yours

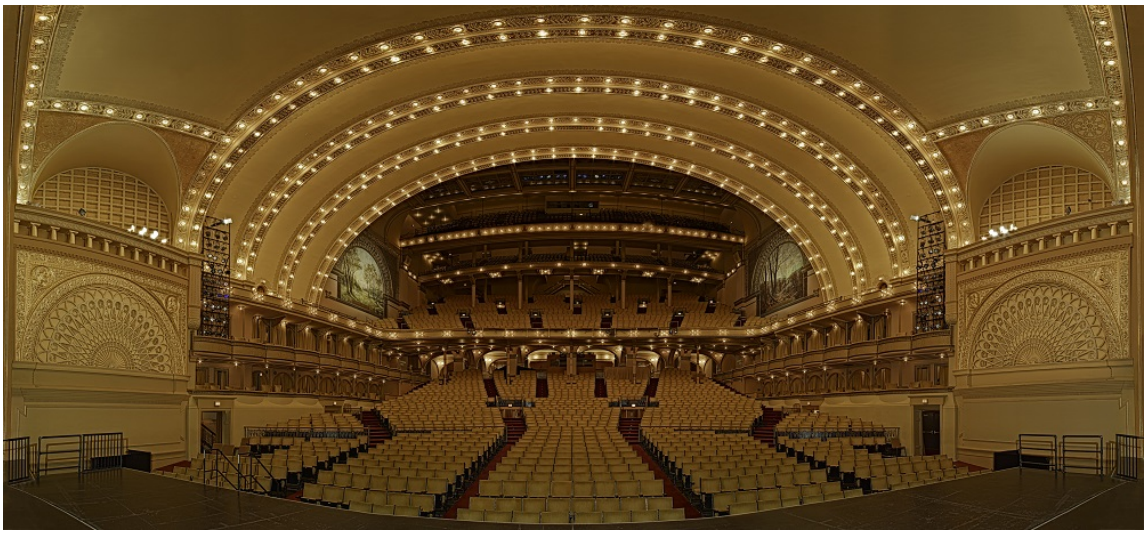
July 13: *Kingdom Hearts* Orchestra World Tour

July 17-29: Broadway In Chicago – *The Color Purple*

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.



Ballet Nacional de Cuba's Patricio Revé, photo by Nancy Reyes. | Ballet Nacional de Cuba's Viengsay Valdés, photo by Jacques Moatti. | Auditorium Theatre, photo by John Boehm.

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