AUDITORIUM THEATRE
CHICAGO’S LANDMARK STAGE® EST. 1889

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AuditoriumTheatre.org

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AAMERICAN BALLET THEATRE BRINGS WHIMSICAL STORY BALLET
WHIPPED CREAM TO THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE FOR ITS
CHICAGO PREMIERE APRIL 11-14

Featuring Stunning Choreography by Alexei Ratmansky and
Dazzling Costumes and Sets by Mark Ryden

Whipped Cream Engagement Kicks Off the Auditorium Theatre’s New
Four-Year Partnership with American Ballet Theatre; The Company
Will Return to Chicago Every Year
as a Visiting Resident Company Through 2022

American Ballet Theatre – Whipped Cream at the Auditorium Theatre April 11-14, 2019

Press photos and video are available here.
American Ballet Theatre (ABT), America’s National Ballet Company®, brings the Chicago premiere of its new story ballet **Whipped Cream** to the Auditorium Theatre April 11-14. **Whipped Cream** features choreography by ABT Artist in Residence Alexei Ratmansky, sensational sets and stunning costumes by pop-surrealist artist Mark Ryden, and a revived 1924 score by composer Richard Strauss (performed by the Chicago Philharmonic).

In August 2018, the Auditorium Theatre and American Ballet Theatre announced a four-year partnership that will bring ABT to the theatre as a Visiting Resident Company once a year through 2022. **Whipped Cream** is the first engagement in this partnership, and Chicago is one of just five major cities to host the story ballet since its 2017 premiere at California’s Segerstrom Center.

“The Auditorium Theatre is thrilled to start its new partnership with American Ballet Theatre with the joyous **Whipped Cream**,“ says Rachel Freund, Auditorium Theatre Interim Chief Executive Officer. “ABT first performed on our landmark stage 50 years ago, and we look forward to continuing our longstanding relationship with this internationally-renowned company with this Chicago premiere.”

“We are thrilled to kick off this four-year partnership by bringing the brilliant dancing and whimsical world of **Whipped Cream** to the Auditorium Theatre stage,” says Kara Medoff Barnett, ABT Executive Director. “The ‘T’ in ABT stands for ‘Theatre,’ and this ballet delivers a theatrical experience that dazzles and delights. ABT is the only company in the world that performs this ballet, and we look forward to delivering a sugar rush to Chicago.”

With all-new choreography by Ratmansky, former director of The Bolshoi Ballet, **Whipped Cream** follows the story of a young boy who, after receiving his first communion, is rewarded with a trip to a pastry shop. The boy, especially fond of whipped cream, overindulges in sweets and falls into a sugar-induced delirium, in which he encounters mystical creatures, nightmarish puppets, and the beautiful Princess Praline, who comes to his rescue.

Ryden, a celebrated painter known as the founder of the genre "pop surrealism," designed more than 150 costumes and colorful, extravagant sets for the production, incorporating more than 78,000 Swarovski crystals into his intricate designs. **Whipped Cream** is set to a rarely heard score by Strauss, which premiered at the Vienna State Opera in 1924. Strauss made his first United States appearance at the Auditorium Theatre in 1904. When he returned to the Auditorium in 1921 for the Chicago Opera Company’s revival of *Salome*, the Chicago Tribune noted that he was working on a new composition, titled *Schlagobers* (German for "whipped cream"), which “concerns the adventures of a group of children in a confectionary shop.” Nearly 100 years later, the Chicago Philharmonic will perform this score live at the Auditorium.

Ryden’s creations, Ratmansky’s choreography, Strauss’ score, and the world-class talent of ABT’s dancers make **Whipped Cream** a show fit for all ages and for any fan of ballet, theatre, or visual arts.
About American Ballet Theatre

Recognized by an act of the United States Congress as America’s National Ballet Company®, American Ballet Theatre is one of the great dance companies in the world. Few ballet companies equal ABT for its combination of size, scope and outreach. Founded in 1940, ABT performs for more than 400,000 people annually. It has made more than 30 international tours to 45 countries, including recent triumphant engagements in Hong Kong, Brisbane, Singapore, Oman, and Paris.

SPECIAL EVENTS - For more information or to purchase tickets to these events, please visit AuditoriumTheatre.org.

College Night | Thursday, April 11 at 6PM

The Auditorium Theatre hosts a special College Night on Thursday, April 11. College Night tickets are $25 and include a seat to the performance and a pre-show pizza party.

Student Matinee | Friday, April 12 at 11AM

American Ballet Theatre performs a one-hour Student Matinee for students in grades K-12 at the Auditorium Theatre on Friday, April 12 at 11AM. Tickets may be reserved online here and are $15 per person.

Young Professionals’ Night | Friday, April 12 at 6PM

The Auditorium Theatre hosts a special Young Professionals’ Night on Friday, April 12. Young Professionals tickets are $50 and include a seat to the performance and a pre-show party with light bites from Cafecito and drinks. Tickets may be reserved online here using the promo code YOUNGPRO.

FREE Dance Master Class | Saturday, April 13 at 11AM

Intermediate and advanced dancers are invited to register for the Auditorium Theatre’s free Dance Master Class, led by dancers from American Ballet Theatre, on Saturday, April 13 at 11AM. Participants may register online here.
Fireside Chat | Saturday, April 13 at 6PM
Auditorium Theatre subscribers and donors are invited to an exclusive pre-performance Fireside Chat discussion with American Ballet Theatre, featuring light bites from Trattoria No. 10, wine, and other beverages.

FREE Post-Show Q&A | Sunday, April 14 following the 2PM matinee performance
A free post-show Q&A with the artists of American Ballet Theatre, guided by Auditorium Theatre Creative Engagement staff, takes place immediately following the Sunday, April 14 matinee performance.

Event Information

**American Ballet Theatre’s Whipped Cream**
Thursday, April 11 | 7:30PM
Friday, April 12 | 11AM – *One hour Student Matinee performance*
Friday, April 12 | 7:30PM
Saturday, April 13 | 2PM
Saturday, April 13 | 7:30PM
Sunday, April 14 | 2PM

Individual tickets start at $44 and are available online here, by phone at 312.341.2300, or in person at the Auditorium Theatre Box Office (50 E Ida B Wells Dr). Discounts are also available for groups of 10+. American Ballet Theatre is part of the International Dance Series subscription, which offers a 25% discount on tickets and also includes Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg.

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.

**Upcoming Events at the Auditorium Theatre**
February 13-24: The Joffrey Ballet – Anna Karenina
March 2+3: Hubbard Street Dance Chicago/Malpaso Dance Company
March 6-10: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
March 16: ICCA Great Lakes Semifinal, presented by Varsity Vocals
March 17: Louder Than A Bomb 2019
March 24: An Evening with Karamo
March 30: A Whole New World of Alan Menken
March 31: National Geographic: Symphony for Our World
April 2-7: Broadway In Chicago – Jersey Boys
April 11-14: American Ballet Theatre – Whipped Cream
April 16: VIVID 2019: CCPA Annual Showcase

**About The Auditorium Theatre**
The Auditorium Theatre, located at 50 E Ida B Wells Dr at Roosevelt University 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 2018-19 Season is made possible in part with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council, The Chicago Community Trust, and the Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel. Michigan Avenue Magazine is the official magazine sponsor. For more information about programming, volunteer, and donor opportunities or theatre tours, please call 312.341.2310 or visit AuditoriumTheatre.org. For a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please click here.

Katherine Williams, Paulina Waski, April Giangeruso, and Catherine Hurlin in Whipped Cream, photo by Gene Schiavone.
Sarah Lane and Danii Simkin in Whipped Cream, photo by Gene Schiavone. | Scenes from Whipped Cream, photos by Gene Schiavone. | Auditorium Theatre, photo by Tatyana Perreault.