

AUDITORIUM THEATRE

CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE® EST. 1889

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AuditoriumTheatre.org

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AUDITORIUM THEATRE ANNOUNCES 130TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

HIGHLIGHTS:

CHICAGO IS THE ONLY CITY IN THE UNITED STATES TO HOST THE BOLSHOI BALLET'S *SWAN LAKE* AND ONE OF ONLY TWO STOPS ON THE COMPANY'S 2020 U.S. TOUR

AUDITORIUM THEATRE PARTNERS WITH THE CHICAGO SINFONIETTA TO GIVE THE CHICAGO PREMIERE OF JORDAN PEELE'S *GET OUT* LIVE IN CONCERT

***NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE* SERIES RETURNS, FEATURING NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORERS DEDICATED TO PROTECTING OUR PLANET**

***TOO HOT TO HANDEL: THE JAZZ-GOSPEL MESSIAH* CELEBRATES 15 YEARS IN CHICAGO**

INNOVATIVE LOCAL COMPANIES CERQUA RIVERA DANCE THEATRE AND HEDWIG DANCES MAKE THEIR "MADE IN CHICAGO" DANCE SERIES DEBUTS





(CHICAGO, IL) **The Auditorium Theatre** announces its 2019-20 Season, also its 130th Anniversary Season, featuring world-renowned national and international dance companies, celebrated local artists, and exhilarating premieres.

“When the Auditorium Theatre first opened 130 years ago, its founders envisioned it as The Theatre for the People, a gathering place that could bring Chicagoans together to experience everything from dance and music to science and art,” says **C.J. Dillon, Auditorium Theatre Chief Programming Officer**. “We uphold this vision during the 2019-20 Season by presenting a diverse array of programming that showcases the versatility of our National Historic Landmark and offers something for everyone, whether you are looking for world-renowned dance, uplifting music, or inspiring speakers. We are incredibly proud that the Auditorium Theatre continues to be a renaissance theatre and one of the pillars of Chicago’s cultural landscape after 130 years.”

The **International Dance Series** opens with **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, following its exhilarating and critically-acclaimed 60th anniversary season performances in Chicago. The company returns to the Auditorium, its Chicago home, for its annual appearance with exciting Midwest premieres and classic repertory works. The Auditorium’s Visiting Resident Company **American Ballet Theatre** celebrates its 80th anniversary at the theatre with **Natalia Makarova’s *La Bayadère***. Russia’s premier ballet company, the **Bolshoi Ballet**, makes its first Chicago appearance in 16 years when it brings **Yuri Grigorovich’s *Swan Lake*** to the Auditorium. Chicago is the only city to present *Swan Lake* and one of only two stops on the company’s 2020 United States tour.

The **American Music Series** features the Chicago premiere of the live-in-concert version of Jordan Peele’s Oscar-nominated film ***Get Out***, presented in partnership with the **Chicago Sinfonietta** and conducted by film score composer **Michael Abels**. On Halloween and November 1, the **Chicago Philharmonic** returns to perform alongside **Tim Burton’s *The Nightmare Before Christmas***. The theatre’s signature annual event, ***Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah***, celebrates 15 years in Chicago ahead of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Also part of the American Music Series is a salute to one of America’s greatest living composers, **Stephen Sondheim**, in commemoration of his 90th birthday this season. ***Chicago Celebrates Sondheim!*** is directed and produced by Chicago cabaret icon **Joan Curto**, and features some of the city’s best classical, jazz, theatre, and cabaret artists. The Auditorium Theatre honors **Patti Eylar and Charlie Gardner** that evening with the fourth-annual **Adler and Sullivan Award** at the Annual Fall Gala Dinner and Reception at the Palmer House Hilton.

The **“Made in Chicago” Dance Series** showcases the city’s incredible dance companies. **Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater** shares the stage with **Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre** in a one-night-only performance that explores identity and culture. **Trinity Irish Dance Company** follows its electrifying 2019 performance with two shows on Leap Day in 2020, presenting a world premiere and other new works. **Giordano Dance Chicago**, America’s original jazz dance company, brings a high-energy, mesmerizing program back to the Auditorium. The imaginative company **Hedwig Dances** makes its Auditorium debut with a special performance in which audience members will be seated right on the theatre’s landmark stage.

For the second year, the Auditorium presents the **National Geographic Live** speaker series, which in the 2019-20 Season **focuses on daring explorers who are dedicated to protecting our planet**. Hear from adventurers who have hiked the **Grand Canyon** in its entirety, devoted their lives to researching and defending **big cats** and **orangutans**, and spent more than 10,000 hours underwater in order to capture the **soul of the sea**.

Ticket Information

Renewals and [subscription packages](#) will be available March 27, 2019. Individual tickets and discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more people will be available at a later date.

For the first time, Auditorium Theatre subscribers will have the opportunity to add on [Dance for Life](#), a showcase for Chicago's dance companies that benefits the Dancers' Fund, which provides financial assistance to dance community professionals facing critical health issues. Dance for Life 2019 features **Chicago Dance Crash, Chicago Human Rhythm Project, Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, Giordano Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, The Joffrey Ballet**, and additional dancers from across Chicago.

The Auditorium Theatre offers a variety of special ticket offers to community groups, students, and young professionals throughout the season. The [ADMIT ONE](#) program provides complimentary tickets to Chicago-area community groups that face obstacles to attending live performances. Through ADMIT ONE, community groups receive tickets to events at the Auditorium Theatre, in addition to free round-trip transportation and a workshop led by the Auditorium Theatre's Creative Engagement team. 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. College Nights and Young Professionals' Parties for the 2019-20 season will be announced at a later date.

Press photos are available [here](#).

THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE'S 2019-20 SEASON

INTERNATIONAL DANCE SERIES

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 | 7:30PM

Thursday, March 5, 2020 | 7:30PM

Friday, March 6, 2020 | 7:30PM

Saturday, March 7, 2020 | 2PM

Saturday, March 7, 2020 | 8PM

Sunday, March 8, 2020 | 3PM

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, "one of the best known companies in the world" (The Associated Press) that **"never fails to inspire and delight"** (Chicago Tonight), returns to its Chicago home of more than 50 years as a Visiting Resident Company. Presenting premieres, new productions, timeless classics, and audience favorites, the **"extraordinary Ailey dancers"** (Chicago Tribune) are known for their incredible artistry and mastery of modern, ballet, hip-hop, and a variety of dance techniques. **"If you haven't seen a performance by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in a while, you might forget just how accomplished the company's dancers are. You know they can do anything, but the visible evidence can leave you reeling"** (The New Yorker).

Individual tickets go on sale October 18, 2019 at 9AM.

American Ballet Theatre – La Bayadère

Thursday, March 19, 2020 | 7:30PM

Friday, March 20, 2020 | 7:30PM

Saturday, March 21, 2020 | 2PM

Saturday, March 21, 2020 | 7:30PM

Sunday, March 22, 2020 | 2PM

American Ballet Theatre (ABT) celebrates its 80th anniversary and the 40th anniversary of **Natalia Makarova's restaging of *La Bayadère*** when it returns to Chicago as the Auditorium Theatre's Visiting Resident Ballet Company. Set in the Royal India of the past, ABT's *La Bayadère* is a **"sumptuous full-length ballet"** (The New York Times) that tells an enthralling story of eternal love, mystery, fate, vengeance, and justice in a **"hypnotic spectacle of precision and heavenly harmony"** (The Washington Post). With dramatic dancing, opulent sets, and exquisite costumes, ABT's *La Bayadère* makes for **"edge-of-your-seat watching"** (The New York Times).

Individual tickets go on sale October 18, 2019 at 9AM.

Bolshoi Ballet – *Swan Lake*

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 | 7:30PM

Thursday, June 11, 2020 | 7:30PM

Friday, June 12, 2020 | 7:30PM

Saturday, June 13, 2020 | 2PM

Saturday, June 13, 2020 | 7:30PM

Sunday, June 14, 2020 | 2PM

Considered the **"the world's greatest dance company"** (The Independent), **Russia's premier ballet company** makes a triumphant return to Chicago and to the historic Auditorium Theatre after 16 years. **Yuri Grigorovich's *Swan Lake***, set to **Tchaikovsky's** iconic score, incorporates choreography from masters **Marius Petipa, Lev Ivanov, and Alexander Gorsky**. Called **"dazzling"** and **"immensely rewarding"** (The Telegraph), *Swan Lake* highlights the **"world's greatest dancers"** (BBC) and the **"emotional, athletic, and theatrical style"** (The Washington Post) that earned the company its international acclaim. **Chicago is the only city presenting the Bolshoi's *Swan Lake* on the company's 2020 United States tour.**

Individual tickets go on sale October 18, 2019 at 9AM.

AMERICAN MUSIC SERIES

Get Out with the Chicago Sinfonietta

Saturday, September 21, 2019 | 7:30PM

The live concert experience of Academy Award®-winning filmmaker **Jordan Peele's *Get Out*** comes to the Auditorium Theatre in this Midwest premiere. Score composer **Michael Abels** conducts the **Chicago Sinfonietta, the city's most diverse and inclusive orchestra, as they perform the movie's heart-pounding music.** *Get Out*, **nominated for four Academy Awards including Best Picture**, is a film that is equal parts gripping thriller and provocative social commentary.

Individual tickets go on sale July 19, 2019 at 9AM.

Disney in Concert: Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas*

Thursday, October 31, 2019 | 7:30PM

Friday, November 1, 2019 | 7:30PM

What's this? What's this? No, it's not a dream... ***The Nightmare Before Christmas* is returning to Chicago!** Get in the Halloween spirit with a screening of Tim Burton's classic stop-motion film, featuring **beloved songs** like "This Is Halloween!" and "Jack's Lament" performed live-to-film by the **Chicago Philharmonic, who "truly [bring] to life the spooky magic of Danny Elfman's legendary music"** (Chicago Stage Standard). **This new Chicago tradition has everything you need to celebrate Halloween with your family or your friends:** Dress in your Halloween or *Nightmare* finest and come early for trick-or-treating, fun activities, and a costume contest in the Auditorium Theatre's historic...**and perhaps even haunted...lobby.**

Individual tickets go on sale July 19, 2019 at 9AM.

Chicago Celebrates *Sondheim!*

Saturday, November 16, 2019 | 8PM

The Auditorium Theatre salutes **Stephen Sondheim**, America's greatest living composer and lyricist who celebrates his 90th birthday this season, with a one-night-only performance that features some of the city's best classical, jazz, theatre, and cabaret artists. Directed and produced

by Chicago's own **Joan Curto**, with musical direction by **Beckie Menzie**, performers including **Susan Werner, Robert Sims, Paul Marinaro, Johnny Rodgers, Heidi Kettenring**, and more bring their unique voices to songs from Sondheim's beloved repertoire, including selections from ***Sweeney Todd, Follies, Company, West Side Story***, and more. Live music is provided by the **Chicago Philharmonic**, conducted by **Rich Daniels**.

Individual tickets go on sale July 19, 2019 at 9AM.

[Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah](#)

Saturday, January 18, 2020 | 7:30PM

Sunday, January 19, 2020 | 3PM

This **"exuberant, jazz-gospel makeover"** (Chicago Tribune) of Handel's classic *Messiah* celebrates 15 years in Chicago! Join us on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day weekend to witness the transformational powers of the performing arts and uplift King's vision of a "beloved community." With fiery soloists **Rodrick Dixon, Alfreda Burke, and Karen Marie Richardson**; a chamber orchestra, jazz combo, and 100-person choir under the baton of **Suzanne Mallare Acton**; and spirited Detroit pianist **Alvin Waddles, famous for his jaw-dropping cadenzas, Too Hot is an annual Chicago tradition that fills your soul and spirit.**

Individual tickets go on sale July 19, 2019 at 9AM.

"MADE IN CHICAGO" DANCE SERIES

[Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater and Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre](#)

Friday, October 4, 2019 | 7:30PM

Two beloved Chicago companies that explore identity and culture through dance and music share the Auditorium Theatre's stage in this one-night-only performance. The world-renowned Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, in residence at Northeastern Illinois University, is **"pushing Spanish dance into the 21st century"** (Chicago Tribune), fusing flamenco, folkloric, classical, and contemporary styles. **Celebrating its 20th anniversary**, Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre **"has never looked better"** (See Chicago Dance), using dance, music, and visual art to contemplate the ideas and themes that shape our community.

Individual tickets go on sale July 19, 2019 at 9AM.

[Trinity Irish Dance Company](#)

Saturday, February 29 | 2PM

Saturday, February 29 | 7:30PM

Celebrate Leap Day with Trinity Irish Dance Company (TIDC) as they fly across the Auditorium Theatre's stage! TIDC follows **its acclaimed 2019 return to Chicago and the Auditorium Theatre** with a new program featuring audience favorites and brand-new works, including a world premiere. The company effortlessly **"[stretches] the limits of what Irish dance can do aesthetically and rhythmically"** (Chicago Tribune) and **"entices you with mesmerizing footwork that seems unreal"** (Chicago Stage Standard). Helmed by founder and artistic director **Mark Howard** and associate artistic director **Chelsea Hoy**, TIDC elevates the art form and **puts its strong female dancers at the forefront.**

Individual tickets go on sale October 18, 2019 at 9AM.

[Giordano Dance Chicago](#)

Saturday, June 6, 2020 | 7:30PM

Giordano Dance Chicago, the **"powerful tour de force of Chicago's dance community that consistently brings us to our feet"** (Chicago Tribune) comes to the Auditorium Theatre for its fifth full-length performance, celebrating its 57th season with exhilarating new pieces and classic repertory favorites. Led by Artistic Director **Nan Giordano**, named the **Chicago Tribune's 2018 Chicagoan of the Year in Dance**, the mesmerizing performers of America's original jazz dance company always bring down the house with **"eye-popping, high-impact, aerobically fearsome pieces"** (Chicago Tonight).

Individual tickets go on sale October 18, 2019 at 9AM.

ADD ON! Hedwig Dances – SPACE PLAY

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 | 7:30PM

See Hedwig Dances, the innovative contemporary company known for “[blurring] the line **between movement and visual art,**” (Chicago magazine) in a special setting **on the Auditorium Theatre’s landmark stage.** As the company celebrates **their 35th anniversary,** audiences will experience an intimate look at company founder **Jan Bartoszek’s continued exploration of the Bauhaus modernist art movement through dance.** Bartoszek expertly uses light, sculptural objects, and projections to create imaginative works that **examine human connection and invoke a sense of wonder and curiosity.**

Individual tickets go on sale October 18, 2019 at 9AM.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE SERIES

This season, *National Geographic Live* returns to the Auditorium’s historic stage with a new series focused on the daring explorers who are dedicated to protecting our planet.

Between River and Rim: Hiking the Grand Canyon

Tuesday, September 24, 2019 | 7PM

In an effort to learn more about the uncharted glory of the **Grand Canyon,** which was officially declared a National Park 100 years ago, writer **Kevin Fedarko** and photographer/filmmaker **Pete McBride** set off on an **audacious and demanding adventure to travel the length of the canyon on foot.** These National Geographic explorers **shed light on the myriad environmental threats that the National Park currently faces** and share stories from their trek, accompanied by McBride’s stunning photos and videos that showcase the beauty of the landmark canyon.

Individual tickets go on sale July 19, 2019 at 9AM.

On the Trail of Big Cats

Sunday, January 26, 2020 | 3PM

From trekking India’s Himalayas in search of **rare snow leopards** to tracking the **elusive jaguar** through Latin American jungles to pursuing the **American cougar** throughout Hollywood Hills, award-winning National Geographic photographer **Steve Winter** has ventured far and wide to come face-to-face with his subjects. This is no easy task – **many of these species are in danger of extinction.** Follow Winter into the **endangered, wild, and unpredictable world of these creatures** as he reveals some of his most memorable experiences from working with big cats and discusses the work that is being done to save them.

Individual tickets go on sale October 18, 2019 at 9AM.

Adventures Among Orangutans

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 | 7PM

Husband-and-wife duo **Tim Laman** and **Cheryl Knott** have dedicated their lives to **understanding and protecting orangutans,** a threatened species that can only be observed a handful of places around the world. Together, biological anthropologist Knott and photojournalist Laman have **combined innovative new techniques with traditional fieldwork to get a closer look at these incredible animals.** In this presentation, the pair provides a closer look into the work that they’ve done with this **intelligent, resourceful, and endangered species with whom we share 97% of our DNA,** giving us insights into not only the animals’ world, but also our own.

Individual tickets go on sale October 18, 2019 at 9AM.

Ocean Soul

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 | 7PM

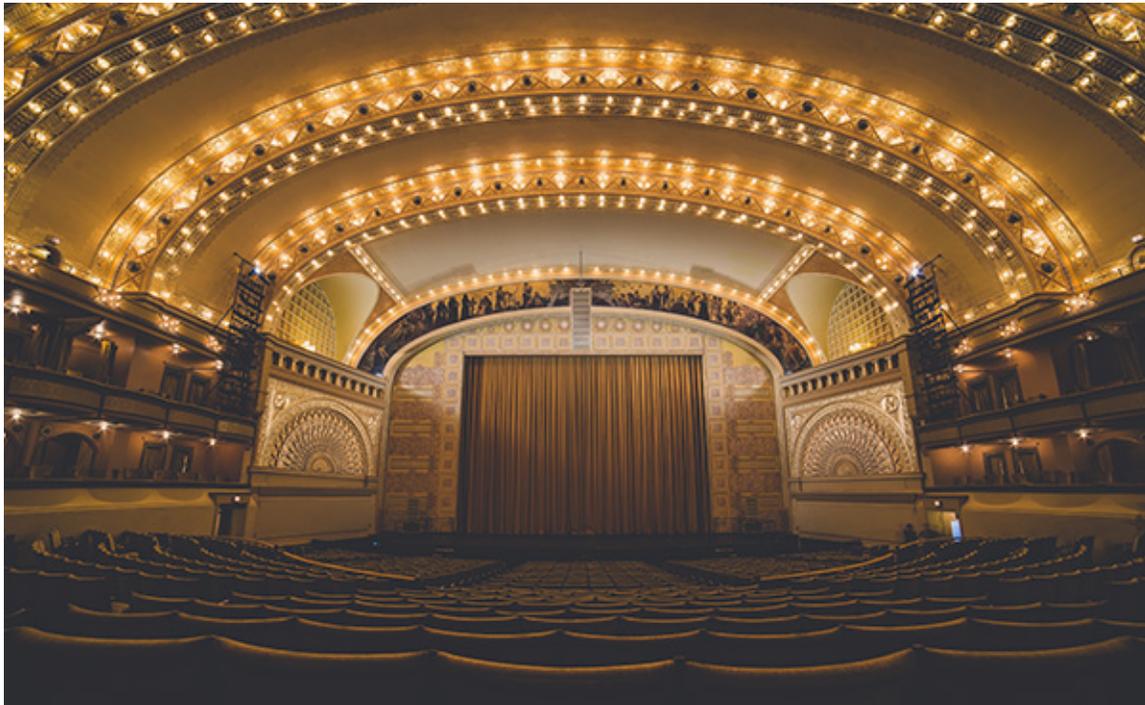
National Geographic photographer **Brian Skerry** has captured the soul of the sea for more than 20 years, **spending more than 10,000 hours underwater** (often in extreme conditions

beneath Arctic ice or in predator-infested waters). Journey with him from the North Atlantic, **where harp seals face off with commercial hunters**, to the Gulf of St. Lawrence **in search of the endangered blue fin tuna**, to research facilities around the world **to study dolphin intelligence**. The images Skerry captures offer a **mesmerizing glimpse into the soul of the sea and remind us why we need to preserve our oceans**.

Individual tickets go on sale October 18, 2019 at 9AM.

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**. 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](#).



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Yannick Lebrun, Jacqueline Green, and Chalvar Monteiro, photo by Andrew Eccles. | American Ballet Theatre's Isabella Boylston in *La Bayadère*, photo by Gene Schiavone. | The Bolshoi Ballet in *Swan Lake*, photo by Damir Yusupov. | *Get Out* © 2019 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS. | *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, photo courtesy of the Auditorium Theatre. | Joan Curto and Beckie Menzie, photo courtesy of Joan Curto. | *Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah*, photo by Kristie Kahns. | Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, photo by Dean Paul. | Hedwig Dances, photo by William Federking. | Trinity Irish Dance Company, photo by Lois Greenfield. | Giordano Dance Chicago, photo by Beth Anne Anderson. | *Between River and Rim*, photo by Pete McBride. | *On the Trail of Big Cats*, photo by Steve Winter. | *Adventures Among Orangutans*, photo by Tim Laman. | *Ocean Soul*, photo by Brian Skerry. | Auditorium Theatre, photo by Lucio Vergara.



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