

in association with BalletMet Columbus

For immediate release: February 25, 2004

Media contacts: Karen Simonian at the Wexner Center, 614 292-9923 or ksimonian@wexarts.org; or Nancy Colvin at the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, 614-228-9600 ext. 1334 or ncolvin@columbussymphony.com

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE PERFORMS IN COLUMBUS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN THREE DECADES

2005 PERFORMANCE CO-PRESENTED BY WEXNER CENTER AND COLUMBUS SYMPHONY WITH BALLETMET

TICKETS ON SALE NOW TO MEMBERS, SUBSCRIBERS; PUBLIC SALES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 7

American Ballet Theatre, considered one of the foremost dance companies in the world, comes to Columbus **March 8, 2005**, performing in the **Wexner Center's Mershon Auditorium** in an event co-presented by the Wexner Center for the Arts and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, in association with BalletMet Columbus.

Recognized as a national treasure, American Ballet Theatre was founded in 1940 with a mission to present a repertoire of classical ballets and to support new work by young choreographers. For its Columbus appearance, ABT will perform a program featuring classical and contemporary work, including pieces by famed vanguard choreographer William Forsythe and ballet icon George Balanchine. ABT will perform to live accompaniment by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra.

The program includes the classic Balanchine tour-de-force *Theme and Variations*, set to Tchaikovsky's Suite No. 3 for Orchestra, final movement, and two pieces by contemporary choreographer Jiří Kylián of Nederlans Dans Theater—*Petit Mort* and *Sechs Tänze*, both set to Mozart. The program will also feature the first William Forsythe piece to be performed in Columbus—*workwithinwork*, set to recorded music by Luciano Berio. The *New York Times* called ABT's performance of this work "a flash of brilliance" danced with "gusto and precision." Forsythe, artistic director of the Frankfurt Ballet, was the most recent recipient of the Wexner Prize.

Wexner Center for the Arts
The Ohio State University
1871 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1393
614 292-3535
www.wexarts.org

Columbus Symphony Orchestra
55 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614 228-8600
www.columbussymphony.com

BalletMet Columbus
322 Mount Vernon Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614 229-4848
www.balletmet.org

ABT has not performed in Columbus in more than three decades, when the company last appeared in OSU's Mershon Auditorium.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are on sale now to Wexner Center members and symphony and BalletMet subscribers and can be ordered through those organizations' ticket offices. Tickets for Wexner Center members and CSO subscribers are \$65, \$50, and \$40.

Starting September 7, tickets will go on sale to the general public for \$75, \$60, and \$50; a \$20 student rush ticket will be offered two hours before the show. Members and subscribers can call the organizations' box offices: 614 292-3535 (Wexner Center), 614 228-8600 (Columbus Symphony), or 614 229-4848 (BalletMet).

Tickets will only be sold through the Wexner Center Ticket Office (614 292-3535) and Ticketmaster (614 431-3600) beginning September 7.

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

Few dance groups equal American Ballet Theatre for its size, scope, and outreach. Over the past six decades, the New York-based company has developed a repertoire of the best ballets from the past while encouraging the creation of new works by gifted young choreographers. ABT has been directed by Lucia Chase, Oliver Smith, Mikhail Baryshnikov, and, currently, Kevin McKenzie, a leading dancer with The Joffrey Ballet, the National Ballet of Washington, and ABT before being appointed artistic director of ABT in 1992.

Over the years, ABT has commissioned works by the great choreographic geniuses of the 20th century: George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Twyla Tharp, Agnes de Mille, and more. Based in New York, the company tours the United States and the globe as perhaps the most representative American ballet company, and has been sponsored by the State Department on many of these engagements.

For more information, visit abt.org.

LOCAL PARTNERS

The **Wexner Center for the Arts** is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international contemporary arts center, with a full season of performing arts, exhibitions, and films. The **Columbus Symphony Orchestra** is the city's resident symphony orchestra, now in its 52nd season, with a season of classical and pops concerts, as well as outdoor summer concerts and family events. Founded in 1978, **BalletMet Columbus** is a professional dance company and academy serving Columbus, with a season of classical ballet and contemporary dance. The ABT show marks the first collaboration among all three Columbus arts institutions.

The Wexner Center has served as a catalyst for collaborations between Columbus cultural institutions since 1991, and the three organizations collaborating for ABT have partnered many times throughout the years. The symphony regularly accompanies the BalletMet performances; the Wexner Center and the symphony have collaborated on performances or films that require a symphony orchestra; and BalletMet and the Wexner Center offer support for selected shows from the others' season each year, and on occasion collaborate more directly on contemporary dance events.

For more information on the partnering organizations, or to become a member or subscriber, visit www.wexarts.org, www.columbussymphony.com, or www.balletmet.org.

###30###