

in association with BalletMet Columbus

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Media contacts: Karen Simonian at the Wexner Center, 614 292-9923 or ksimonian@wexarts.org; or Sue Stanton at the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, 614 228-9600 ext. 1282 or ssanton@columbussympphony.com

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

***PERFORMANCE BY FAMED DANCE COMPANY CO-PRESENTED
BY WEXNER CENTER AND COLUMBUS SYMPHONY***

American Ballet Theatre, one of the foremost dance companies in the world, comes to Columbus **March 8, 2005** at 8 pm, 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. In this rare local appearance, ABT will perform to **live accompaniment by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra**.

The program showcases both classical and contemporary work, including George Balanchine's tour-de-force *Theme and Variations*, set to Tchaikovsky's Suite No. 3 for Orchestra, final movement; *Sinfonietta* by contemporary choreographer Jiří Kylián (artistic director of Nederlans Dans Theater), danced to music by renowned Czech composer Leoš Janáček; and 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, formerly artistic director of the Frankfurt Ballet and now director of his own Forsythe Company, received the Wexner Prize in 2002.

ABT last performed in Columbus more than three decades ago, in OSU's Mershon Auditorium.

PREPERFORMANCE TALK

A preperformance talk led **Melanie Bales** will be held at 7 pm; admission is free. Bales, associate professor in the Department of Dance at Ohio State, will discuss Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*.

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.columbussympphony.com

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

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the general public are \$75, \$60, and \$50, available through the Wexner Center Ticket Office (614 292-3535) and Ticketmaster (614 431-3600). A \$20 student rush ticket will be offered two hours before the show. Tickets for Wexner Center members and CSO subscribers are \$65, \$50, and \$40. Members and subscribers can call the organizations' box offices: 614 292-3535 (Wexner Center), 614 228-8600 (Columbus Symphony), or 614 229-4848 (BalletMet).

MORE ABOUT 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 www.abt.org.

CALENDAR INFORMATION for AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

Description: Famed dance company American Ballet Theatre performs a program of classical and contemporary work in a rare local performance. Co-presented by Wexner Center and Columbus Symphony Orchestra, in association with BalletMet Columbus.

Date and time: Tuesday, March 8 / 8 pm

Location: Mershon Auditorium, Wexner Center, 1871 N. High St.

Tickets: \$75, \$60, and \$50 general public; \$65, \$50, and \$40 Wexner Center members and CSO subscribers. \$20 student rush tickets sold two hours before the show.

Ticket outlets: Wexner Center Ticket Office, 614 292-3535 or Ticketmaster, 614 431-3600 (or ticketmaster.com).

Public information: 614 292-3535 and www.wexarts.org.

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Digital images available upon request.

EVENT SUPPORT

American Ballet Theatre is presented by the Wexner Center and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in association with BalletMet Columbus.

American Ballet Theater's national tour is sponsored by Countrywide Financial and Cole Haan.

The Wexner Center's 2004–05 dance season is presented by Huntington.

This presentation is supported by the Heartland Arts Fund, a program of Arts Midwest funded by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional contributions from General Mills Foundation, Land O'Lakes Foundation, Sprint Corporation, and the Ohio Arts Council.

Support for the Wexner Center's 2004–05 performing arts season is provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ohio Arts Council and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.

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.

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