

wexner center
for the arts

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LYON OPERA BALLET RETURNS TO WEXNER CENTER WITH THOROUGHLY MODERN RAVEL

THREE CONTEMPORARY WORKS SET TO THE MUSIC OF MAURICE RAVEL

“The *Boléro* is astonishing, superb.”—*Le Figaro*, on Lyon Opera Ballet’s performance of Meryl Tankard’s *Boléro*

Lyon Opera Ballet, one of France’s finest modern repertory dance companies, returns to the Wexner Center on **Tuesday, April 23 at 8 pm**, with three contemporary works all set to the music of French composer Maurice Ravel. Highlighting the program is *Boléro*, choreographed by Meryl Tankard, whose boldly original *Furioso* for Australian Dance Theater was performed at the Wexner Center in 1999. The program also features *Gaspard* by rising Finnish talent Tero Saarinen, and *Un Ballo* by Jiří Kylián, the acclaimed force behind Nederlands Dans Theatre.

Arved Ashby, OSU assistant professor of music, will discuss Ravel in a **preperformance talk** at 7 pm in the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater; the talk is free for ticket holders.

This performance is presented by the Wexner Center in association with BalletMet.

THE WORKS

For *Boléro*, Tankard has created an extraordinary visual treat, an intricate, magical shadowplay whose jubilant verve matches the spirited music. With a set that includes projected photographs of the various sites of the historic French city of Lyon, the work features dancers silhouetted behind a scrim, their bodies changing in scale according to the musical moment. Since leaving Australia, Meryl Tankard has become an in-demand freelance choreographer, and this work for Lyon Opera Ballet has become a favorite at festivals worldwide.

The program also features rising Finnish talent Tero Saarinen’s *Gaspard*, set to Ravel’s *Gaspard de la Nuit*. Said Saarinen of his work, “I am greatly inspired by the

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piece's 'dualism.' While tender and beautiful in appearance, indeed inviting meditation, it turns into drama, mixing seduction with passion, even horror."

The company will also perform Jiří Kylián's *Un Ballo*, his first work created specifically for younger dancers and set to Ravel's *Menuet* from *Le tombeau de Couperin* and his *Pavane pour une infante défunte*. Kylián describes his piece as "a dance for music, nothing more." He considers it to be an exercise in musicality between a man and a woman.

LYON OPERA BALLET

Created in 1969 by Lyon Opera Director Louis Erlo, the Lyon Opera Ballet is known for its experimental and adventurous repertory, performed by a company of classically trained dancers. Since 1984, when the company decided to devote itself entirely to contemporary choreography, the Lyon Opera Ballet has commissioned more than 20 new dances from some of Europe's most radical young choreographers, including Maguy Marin (performing at the Wexner Center in May), John Jasperse, and Angelin Preljocaj. Yorgos Loukos, director of the company since 1988, has established a balance between major pieces from the contemporary repertoire and the creation of new pieces. The company was last at the Wexner Center in 1992.

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

While at the Wexner Center members of the Lyon Opera Ballet will conduct a masterclass for students at Ohio State's Department of Dance.

EVENT SUPPORT

Lead support for the Wexner Center's 2001–02 performing arts season is provided by **AT&T** and the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**. Major season support is provided by **Philip Morris Companies Inc.** Additional season support is provided by the **Ohio Arts Council** and the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation**. Presented with major support from **Bank One**. Promotional support provided by **Classical 89.7 WOSU-FM** and **WBNS 10TV**.

CALENDAR INFORMATION: Lyon Opera Ballet: Ravel

Description: Lyon Opera Ballet returns to the Wexner Center with three modern dance works set to music by French composer Maurice Ravel.

Date and time: Tuesday, April 23 / 8 pm

Location: Mershon Auditorium at the Wexner Center, 1871 N. High St. at 15th Avenue on the campus of The Ohio State University.

Preperformance talk: On the music of Ravel, in the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater at 7pm (free to ticket holders).

Tickets: \$32, \$26, \$20 general public / \$25, \$19, \$14 members and OSU students / \$5 High 5 tickets for middle & high school students at Ticketmaster outlets (431-3600).

Ticket outlets: Wexner Center, 614/292-3535; Ticketmaster outlets, 614/431-3600.

Public information: www.wexarts.org or 614/292-3535.

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Images of Lyon Opera Ballet available upon request.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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