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**The Washington Ballet Premieres its Long-Awaited Production of**

## **SWAN LAKE**

*February 9–13 at the Kennedy Center*

**MEDIA CALL:** Media may make arrangements to attend and capture portions of the final dress rehearsal, Wednesday, February 9

**Washington, D.C. (January 20, 2022)**—The Washington Ballet will premiere its long-awaited production of *Swan Lake*, **February 9–13 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**. The Company was just days away from debuting this new production of the iconic ballet in March of 2020, when the start of the pandemic forced an indefinite postponement.

“When we went into lockdown two years ago, none of us could predict what would follow: the existential uncertainty, the loss of opportunities, the loss of the togetherness that is the essence of live performance. But The Washington Ballet committed to moving forward, together and often in innovative ways, and now here we are, on the brink of a major artistic milestone: Our very own *Swan Lake*,” reflected **TWB Artistic Director Julie Kent**. “This moment feels triumphant—a testament not just to the commitment of The Washington Ballet dancers, but to all the artists and audience members who patiently waited until we could once again share these precious moments together.”

*Media call: Members of the media are invited to film or photograph the final dress rehearsal of Swan Lake on Wednesday, February 9. For further details or to confirm attendance, email Michelle Pendoley, [michelle@pencomms.com](mailto:michelle@pencomms.com).*

Universally considered *the* ballet that defines the art form, *Swan Lake* tells the tragic love story of Prince Siegfried and an enchanted Swan Princess. The plot, as described by George Balanchine and Francis Mason in “101 Stories of the Great Ballets” : “The heroine of Swan Lake is a princess of the night; she is all magic, a creature of the imagination. She is the queen of the swans, a beautiful bird, except between midnight and dawn, when the mysterious sorcerer Von Rothbart allows her to become a beautiful woman. In the world of sky and water she is at home, but in the real world, where romance is possible, she seems to be irretrievably lost. The

great love she comes to have for a worldly prince is doomed at its start; she has no control over her destiny."

The story is brought to life in a production featuring the original choreography of Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, which Ms. Kent and Associate Artistic Director Victor Barbee have updated through meticulous research. Exquisite costumes and scene design complement the production, which also features a live orchestra led by conductor Charles Barker.

The beloved classic demands extraordinary technical skill, and compelling dramatic theatricality from the dancers who bring the world of magic, intrigue, deceit, and tragedy to the stage.

The Washington Ballet's 2022 season continues this Spring with *Giselle* (April 28–May 3 at the Warner Theatre) and *NEXTsteps* (June 1–5 at Sidney Harman Hall) featuring new works by choreographers Brett Ishida, Mthuthuzeli November and Jessica Lang. Beyond the stage, TWB presents *Dance for All* (March 21–April 8), a series of free events and experiences that take place in all eight wards of the city and invite broad community participation.

### TICKETING INFORMATION

The Kennedy Center, Eisenhower Theater

Wednesday, February 9 at 8 p.m.  
Thursday, February 10 at 8 p.m.  
Friday, February 11 at 8 p.m.  
Saturday, February 12 at 2 p.m.  
Saturday, February 12 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, February 13 at 2 p.m.

**Ticketing:** Tickets range from \$25–\$175 and are available for purchase online at [www.washingtonballet.org](http://www.washingtonballet.org) or by phone at 202.677.5193.

**Health & Safety:** Ticketholders will be required to show proof of vaccination upon entering the facility. [Learn more](#).

### PRODUCTION CREDITS

Choreography after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov  
Additional staging and choreography by Julie Kent and Victor Barbee

Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
Featuring The Washington Ballet Orchestra, Charles Barker, conductor

Scenery and costumes courtesy of Ballet West  
Scenic and costume design by Peter Cazalet  
Lighting design by Brad Fields

### ABOUT THE WASHINGTON BALLET

The Washington Ballet (TWB) was founded as The Washington School of Ballet in 1944 and incorporated as a professional company in 1976. Artistic Director Julie Kent's vision is to elevate the prominence of the company as a world-class ballet company in the nation's capital. She has introduced into the repertoire seminal works by George Balanchine, Frederick Ashton, Jerome Robbins, Antony Tudor, and Alexei Ratmansky while embracing the work of emerging choreographers including Justin Peck, Clifton Brown, Gemma Bond, and Ethan Stiefel, among others. Her commitment to the development of both the dancer and the art form is fulfilled through presentation of beloved classic 19th -century ballets and landmark 20th-century works while reaffirming a commitment to commissioned works that will contribute to the evolution of ballet and its relevance in our times. TWB's three-part mission: ensuring excellence in its professional performance company; growing the next generation of dancers through its school, professional training programs, and Studio Company; and serving the community in which it resides through community engagement programs will continue to propel TWB to a more prominent place within the nation's capital and beyond.

#### **FUNDING CREDITS**

The Washington Ballet is funded in part by the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. Grants the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program administered by the U.S Commission of Fine Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Government of the District of Columbia have provided support for The Washington Ballet's artistic, educational, and community engagement programs.

In honor of the Global Partnership between The Washington Ballet and The State of Qatar, we recognize Ambassador H.E. Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al Thani as the Executive Chair of the 2021/2022 Season.

2021/2022 Season Sponsors: Dr. Luanne Adams and Murrell Smith; Raul and Jean-Marie Fernandez; Eve and William Lilley; Barbara and Arthur Rothkopf; and Reditus Laboratories.

Norah and James Orphanides are the underwriters of *Swan Lake*.

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