



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 12, 2013

- WHAT:** The Joffrey Ballet
WHEN: Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
TICKETS: Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/>
IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressImages>

JOFFREY BALLETT COMES TO THE FAC WITH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF NIJINSKY'S SACRE DU PRINTEMP (RITE OF SPRING)

The Joffrey Ballet will perform Thursday, March 14th at Fine Arts Center Concert Hall. One of the world's leading ballet companies, the Joffrey Ballet has put together a memorable lineup for its Amherst appearance featuring the choreography of Stanton Welch and William Forsythe. The evening concludes with Nijinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. Set to the classic, commissioned score by Stravinsky, *Rite* stands as one of the most magnificent musical and dance masterpieces of the 20th century. Ticket holders are invited to a pre-performance talk with Joffrey Ballet artistic staff at 6:30 p.m. in the University Museum of Contemporary Art located on the lower level of the Concert Hall.

"Le Sacre du Printemps" (better known to some as "The Rite of Spring"), sparked riots - not to mention the modern music and dance movements - when it premiered in Paris a century ago. Preceding "Sacre" the company will perform choreographer (and former Joffrey dancer) William Forsythe's angular, athletic "In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated" (originally commissioned by Rudolf Nureyev for the Paris Opera Ballet in 1987); and a new work "Son of Chamber Symphony," choreographed by Stanton Welch, the Houston Ballet's artistic director, to the music of John Adams.

Besides being the centennial of "Sacre's" groundbreaking debut, this season marks the 25th anniversary of the Joffrey's 1987 re-creation, the result of more than a decade of research by husband-and-wife collaborators Millicent Hodson and Kenneth Archer, who tracked down original scores, paintings, reviews, notes and first-person recollections to re-create the landmark work.

Among the Joffrey's long list of notable performances: first dance company to perform at the White House (at the invitation of Jacqueline Kennedy), first to appear on television, first American company to visit Russia, first to commission a rock 'n' roll ballet, first (and only) dance company to appear on the cover of Time magazine, and the first company featured as the subject of a major motion picture (Robert Altman's "The Company").

Founded in 1956 by visionary dancer, teacher, choreographer Robert Joffrey, The Joffrey Ballet is known for its unique, inclusive perspective on dance. The company, the audiences and the repertoire reflect America's rich diversity through story ballets, reconstructions of masterpieces and contemporary works. Guided by celebrated choreographer Gerald Arpino from 1988 until 2007, and now thriving under Artistic Director Ashley C. Wheater and Executive Director Christopher Clinton Conway, the Joffrey Ballet is one of America's most recognizable arts institutions—and one of the top dance companies in the world.

Tickets for the Joffrey Ballet are \$50, \$40, and \$15; Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under are \$10. For tickets call the Box Office at 545-2511, toll-free at 800-999-UMAS, or purchase online at fineartscenter.com. The performance is sponsored by Loomis Village, Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Preview Magazine, WGBY, and New England Public Radio.

PHOTOS

Hi-res photos available for download: <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/article/Images>.

PRESS PASSES

A limited number of press passes are available. Please contact Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or sfarley@admin.umass.edu.

ABOUT THE FAC

The Fine Arts Center, located on the UMass Amherst campus, is a presenter of music, dance, theater and the visual arts, bringing hundreds of outstanding and provocative artists to the Pioneer Valley for over 35 years.

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