

NEVADA *Ballet* THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEVADA BALLET THEATRE PRESENTS THE CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED AND CELEBRATED STORY BALLET, *GISELLE*

LAS VEGAS, NV (Thursday, September 11, 2008) – Nevada Ballet Theatre is pleased to present its 2008-2009 Season Opener, the romantic full-length classic, *Giselle*. Staged by Interim Artistic Director James Canfield, with choreography after Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot, this esteemed ballet will be presented on Friday October 17 at 8 pm, Saturday, October 18 at 2 pm and 8 pm and Sunday, October 19 at 1 pm and 4:30 pm at UNLV's Judy Bayley Theatre, 4505 Maryland Parkway. Ticket prices are \$75, \$49 and \$35 and can be ordered by calling (702) 895-ARTS (2787) or by visiting www.nevadaballet.com.

Set in a Rhineland Village, an innocent and delicate peasant maiden, Giselle, falls deeply in love with a nobleman named Albrecht. After being deceived by him, she loses her reason and dies. The story unfolds as Giselle shields Albrecht from the "Wilis," ghostly maidens who died before their wedding day. She eventually rescues the nobleman she loves from his sorrowful fate, representing the strength of love and its power over death.

An instant sensation when it premiered in Paris, France in 1841, *Giselle* is unlike most classical ballets in that it did not originate from a fairytale or novel. Rather, it was created to showcase the talents of Perrot's wife, famed Italian Ballerina Carlotta Grisi, the first "Giselle." The ballet's popularity was further enhanced by Adolphe Adam's magnificent score. With the use of a narrative device called "Leitmotifs," Adam's composition clearly communicates emotions of love, anger, fear and madness in the ballet's characters, thus enabling the audience to relate to such a complex tale.

"I am excited to be working with the company to stage *Giselle*, one of the most dynamic story ballets of our time," says James Canfield.

Considered one of the most successful achievements of the Romantic Age of Ballet, *Giselle* is rich in history and credited with creating some of the art form's stylistic elements used today such as the "romantic tutu." With its long, tulle skirt and fitted bodice, this costume best represented the poetic nature of the time period.

Some of the world's greatest ballerinas have danced the title role of "Giselle" including Anna Pavlova, Alicia Markova, Gelsey Kirkland and Alessandra Ferri, among others. It is often regarded as one of the most difficult roles for a female dancer as it requires innate acting ability in addition to technical prowess.

MEDIA

For an interview with Interim Artistic Director James Canfield or with a company dancer, please contact Jenn Kratochwill at jkratochwill@nevadaballet.com. Additional photos are available upon request.

SPECIAL EVENT: DINNER & THE BALLET FOR GISELLE

Mix and mingle with an exclusive VIP circle of patrons. In celebration of Nevada Ballet Theatre's Season Opener, *Giselle*, the company will host a special pre-performance dinner on Friday, October 17 at Morton's The Steakhouse at 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$100 per person. For reservations, please call Special Events Coordinator Jessica Erali at (702) 243-2623 ext. 222 or email jerali@nevadaballet.com.

GROUP SALES

Outings are always more fun in a group! Attend the ballet with your friends, staff, or colleagues by taking advantage of Nevada Ballet Theatre's group discounts. Groups of 15 or more will enjoy fantastic savings, personal service and zero shipping and handling fees. To book your group, contact Marketing Manager Julie Wright at (702) 243-2623 ext. 234 or email jwright@nevadaballet.com.

NEW! SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Subscriptions and Single Tickets for the 2008-2009 Season are on sale and can be ordered online at <http://www.nevadaballet.com> or by calling the UNLV Performing Arts Center box office at (702) 895-ARTS (2787). Subscribers receive many benefits over single ticket purchasers including priority seating, free ticket exchanges, personalized service, invitations to special events and more.

For more information on Nevada Ballet Theatre, its programs, or for 2008-2009 production-specific information, call the Nevada Ballet Theatre's Marketing department at (702) 243-2623 or email info@nevadaballet.com.

ABOUT NEVADA BALLET THEATRE

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Nevada Ballet Theatre is the largest professional ballet company and dance academy in the state. Committed to the highest artistic standards, dancers for the 33 member company have been recruited from around the world and include artists with international performing experience. This classically-based company is at home in an eclectic repertory, moving easily from the classics to the high-energy contemporary ballets. The mission of Nevada Ballet Theatre is to educate and inspire regional, statewide and national audiences and vitally impact community life through professional company productions, dance training and education and outreach. Beginning in 2011, Nevada Ballet Theatre will be a resident company in the new world-class Smith Center for the Performing Arts.

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CALENDAR INFORMATION

GISELLE

October 17-19, 2008

Choreography: Jean Coralli & Jules Perrot

Music: Adolphe Adam

Venue: UNLV Performing Arts Center, Judy Bayley Theatre

Love. Despair. Redemption.

This is magnificent, full-length classic romantic ballet at its best. Share this haunting tale of the ill-fated love and betrayal of a young peasant girl and the nobleman she adores. Replete with luscious sets and costumes, floating Wilis, and soaring dancers, this program is an audience favorite worldwide.

Performances:

Friday, October 17 at 8 pm

Saturday, October 18 at 2 pm & 8 pm

Sunday, October 19 at 1 pm & 4:30 pm

Ticket Information:

Call the UNLV Box office at: 895-ARTS (2787)

Section A \$75, Section B \$49, Section C \$35

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Jean Coralli, Choreographer

Born in Paris in 1779, Jean Coralli trained at the Paris Academie, known today as the Paris Opera. Making his debut in 1802, he danced and choreographed in Milan, Lisbon, and Marseille, before returning to Paris in 1825 as the choreographer for the Theatre de la Porte Saint-Martin. As the Paris Academie's Choreographer In Residence during the height of ballet's Romantic period, Coralli choreographed for famous ballerinas such as Carlotta Grisi, creator of the title role in *Giselle*, a ballet he choreographed with Jules Perrot. In addition, he choreographed other ballets including *Le Diable Boiteux*, *La Tarentule*, and *La Peri*.

Jules Perrot, Choreographer

Born in France in 1810, Perrot studied with Auguste Vestris and Salvatore Vigano, two of the principal exponents of expressive ballet. Despite the period's prejudice against male dancers, Perrot was highly applauded for both his classical and mime dancing. He resigned in 1835 due in part to an injury and jealousy over his famous partner, ballerina Marie Taglioni. But, he continued to tour Europe as a dancer and a choreographer where he trained and later married the young ballerina, Carlotta Grisi, known as the first "Giselle." Today, his choreography, along with Jean Coralli's, is considered a consummate challenge to a ballerina's artistry. In 1848, Perrot became the premier danseur at the Imperial Theatre in St. Petersburg, where he created eight more ballets and revived many others.

Adolphe Adam, Composer

French Composer Adolphe Adam entered the Paris Conservatoire at the age of 17 and his formal music education included piano, organ, counterpoint and composition. Inspired by one of his father's students, he went on to compose more than 80 stage works, many of which attained lasting success. His compositions for ballets include the pantomime *La Chatte Blanche* in 1830, *Faust* in 1833, *La fille du Danube* 1836 and *Les Mohicans*. Best known for *Giselle*, Adam created the famous score in three weeks. Premiering in 1841 with the ballerina Carlotta Grisi in the title role, his compositions for ballet possess a stylistic unity which has enabled a ballet like *Giselle* to remain relevant, even today.

James Canfield, Interim Artistic Director and Stager

James Canfield, founding Artistic Director of Oregon Ballet Theatre from 1989-2003, was born in Corning, New York, and received his early dance training at the acclaimed Academy of the Washington School of Ballet under the direction of Mary Day.

Mr. Canfield was a member of the Washington Ballet in Washington D.C., the Joffrey II Dancers in New York City and the Joffrey Ballet under the direction of Robert Joffrey and Gerald Arpino, where he danced an extensive repertoire of works by Jiri Kylian, Agnes de Mille, John Cranko and William Forsythe among others.

In 1986, he left the Joffrey Ballet to become the Artistic Director of Pacific Ballet Theatre, and once the company combined with Ballet Oregon, Mr. Canfield was appointed Artistic Director of the new Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT) in 1989. There, he choreographed numerous ballets for the year-round company and established the School of Oregon Ballet Theatre in order to provide the best classical training to dancers throughout the Northwest.

Mr. Canfield travels the country consulting, choreographing, teaching and staging his choreographic works for companies across the nation. He currently serves as Interim Artistic Director for Nevada Ballet Theatre in Las Vegas, NV.