

# ATLANTA BALLET

## ATLANTA BALLET ADDS JANELLE MONÁE TO *big*

Just when it seems as though *big*, Atlanta Ballet's groundbreaking collaboration with Antwan "Big Boi" Patton of OutKast, couldn't get bigger, it surprises yet again. Atlanta Ballet has announced that the talented voice of **Janelle** Monáe will be joining Big Boi, Sleepy Brown, Scar, Big Rube, C-Bone, Rock D, and Konkrete on stage at the Fabulous Fox Theatre in April.

**Janelle Monáe** is quickly becoming a force in modern music. Originally trained in classical and Broadway, she soon headed to Atlanta to begin her music career beyond Broadway. She has explained her choice of Atlanta by stating "Musically I was ready to do something big, wild, and adventurous. And I knew if Atlanta was big enough for the vision of OutKast, it'd be big enough for me." Since this time, she has gone on to trademark her own brand of soul/R&B. She recently released her debut album *Metropolis*, from which two tracks – "Sincerely Jane," and "Metropolis" – will be featured in *big*.

As the first of its kind performed on the stage of the Fabulous Fox Theatre, *big* fuses the visual experience of Atlanta's professional ballet company and live hip-hop sounds. In addition to Big Boi and other participating artists' defining songs, music will include new, never heard material and classic masterpieces such as Verdi's *La Traviata*.

Media sponsors include WVEE V-103.3 FM, Atlanta's number one radio station, and *Atlanta Peach Magazine*, the city's preeminent luxury publication. After hearing of John McFall's desire to bring hip-hop to the stage, *Peach* editor-in-chief Elizabeth Schulte Roth introduced McFall and Atlanta Ballet to Big Boi and Purple Ribbon Entertainment.

Founded in 1929, Atlanta Ballet is the longest continuously-operating ballet company in the United States. Atlanta Ballet's eclectic repertoire spans ballet history, highlighted by beloved classics and inventive originals.

Among Atlanta Ballet's proud and unique 75-year history are its three Artistic Directors, Miss Dorothy Alexander, whose vision brought dance to the South; Robert Barnett, who turned

Atlanta Ballet into a professional company; and currently, John McFall. Under McFall's leadership Atlanta Ballet continues its commitment to share and educate audiences on the empowering joy of dance.

Atlanta Ballet opened the Centre for Dance Education in 1996 and is dedicated to nurturing young dancers while providing an outlet for adults to express their creativity. With diverse class offerings and student population, the Centre serves over 150,000 people in metro Atlanta each year. Atlanta Ballet's roots remain firmly grounded in the Atlanta community and continue to play a vital role in the city's cultural growth and revitalization.

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