

# ATLANTA BALLET

## PRESS RELEASE

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### ATLANTA BALLET ANNOUNCES 2008-2009 SEASON

(Atlanta, Georgia) As one of the premier ballet companies in the nation, Atlanta Ballet is known as much for its innovative programming as for the artistry of its dancers. In keeping with this tradition of offering diverse, exhilarating performances, Atlanta Ballet is excited to announce the 2008-2009 season. Performances in this 79<sup>th</sup> season will be held in the beautiful new Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, except for *Atlanta Ballet's Nutcracker*, which will remain a holiday tradition at the Fabulous Fox Theatre.

The curtain will open with *Swan Lake* in October. *Swan Lake* is the embodiment of classical perfection, and a cornerstone of dance for more than a century. Don't miss the ballet event that has wooed dance lovers for generations.

Magic can be hard to come by these days, but it is alive and well at the Fox Theater this December. Presenting more than 250 of Atlanta's young dancers, *Atlanta Ballet's Nutcracker* ushers in the season with an extravagant performance full of wonder and surprises.

In February, Atlanta Ballet audiences will experience the ultimate spine-tingling ballet experience - Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. We enjoyed a huge success the last time we performed *Dracula* and we are looking forward to bringing this tale of seduction and surrender to the stage of the Cobb Energy Centre.

In March, audiences will lose themselves in a world of immortal wizards, lovely maidens, and heroic princes when Atlanta Ballet presents *The Firebird*. This spectacular evening of mixed repertoire will also feature a world premiere from resident dance maker Lauri Stallings, creator of the Big Boi collaboration *big*.

Our season will close in May with two thrilling performances – *Don Quixote* and *Snow White*. In *Don Quixote*, we'll travel to sunny Spain for an evening filled with excitement, comedy, and true love, based on Cervantes' classic novel. It's a ballet treat that's poignant, passionate, and sizzling with spice! And what would an Atlanta Ballet season be without something for our youngest patrons? A bewitching blend of music and dance, *Snow White* is brimming with characters we've known and loved all our lives. Enjoy this magical fantasy – a one-hour performance of this beloved classic, created just for the family.

2008-2009 season ticket packages start as low as \$64.00 and are on sale now. The Premiere Series subscription package includes *Swan Lake*, *Dracula*, *The Firebird*, and *Don Quixote*. Season subscribers receive up to a 25% discount off regular tickets prices, flexible exchange, and lost ticket insurance. Also available is the Family Series which includes *Swan Lake*, *Atlanta Ballet's Nutcracker*, and *Snow White*. The three-performance package starts as low as \$44.00.

For ticket information, call the Atlanta Ballet Box Office at 404-892-3303, visit [www.atlantaballet.com](http://www.atlantaballet.com) or buy in person at 1400 West Peachtree Street (enter at back of building on Spring Street) 10:00am to 6:00pm Monday through Friday.

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 78-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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