

ATLANTA BALLET

NEWS RELEASE

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ATLANTA BALLET PREMIERES AT THE COBB ARTS CENTRE WITH BOLD
PERFORMANCES FEATURING *IN THE UPPER ROOM*

(Atlanta, GA) Atlanta Ballet introduces a bold trio of performances full of unexpectedness, rhythm, and thrilling dance! In its debut performance at the new Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, this is a unique opportunity to see Atlanta Ballet dancers stretched to their limits.

With only six performances March 13-16, 2008, this spectacular mixed repertoire is sheer exuberance. The daring show features Balanchine's tranquil *Serenade* juxtaposed by the foot-stomping music of acclaimed blue grass band the Red Clay Ramblers in *Ramblin' Suite*. Completing the dynamic trio is *In the Upper Room*, a contemporary unfolding of pulsating energy and dance choreographed by the legendary Twyla Tharp.

Balanchine originally devised *Serenade* as a lesson for the students in his advanced class. Subsequently, Balanchine made it a stage work after adding sequences from unexpected events at his studio. During one rehearsal, as the women were rushing out, one fell down and began to cry. He choreographed the incident right into the ballet.

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Balanchine described *Serenade* as simply, “dancers in motion to a beautiful piece of music.”

In the Upper Room, with its dramatic, nearly religious and hypnotic movements, is one of the most popular of Tharp's masterpieces. Set to the theatrical music of Philip Glass, standing ovations have become standard in performance history. Tharp describes her movements here as "fierce, driving, and relentless." She aims to "burn the retina" with furiously fast unison moves in this exuberant stage show.

Ramblin' Suite comes alive with the zany music of North Carolina's internationally acclaimed string band, The Red Clay Ramblers. Known for creating new, bold ballets that stray from convention, choreographer Diane Coburn-Bruning has created a ballet that leaves audiences cheering for more.

Tickets start as low as \$15 and are on-sale now. Call the Ticketmaster Arts Line at (404) 817-8700, stop by a Ticketmaster outlet or the Cobb Energy Box Office. To order on-line, visit www.atlantaballet.com. Groups of ten or more may call Atlanta Ballet Group Sales at (404) 873-5811 ext. 207.

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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