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Sarah Smith, courtesy of American Ballet Theatre, Photo credit: Keith May

Boca Ballet Theatre Presents *Return to Russe Repertoire Concert*

Boca Raton, FL – Featuring an array of international ballet stars, Boca Ballet Theatre’s summer repertoire concert, *Return to Russe* travels through several eras of music and dance, presenting pieces that significantly impacted the world of classical ballet. The performance features a riveting premiere of a new work, choreographed by Boca Ballet Theatre’s Artistic Director, Dan Guin, created as a tribute to the Ballet Russe’s *The Rite of Spring*.

Boca Ballet Theatre’s 2013 performance of *The Rite of Spring* is especially invigorating, as it celebrates the ballet’s 100th anniversary. Originally choreographed by Vaslav Nijinsky in 1913 for the Ballet Russes, *The Rite of Spring* was set to an avante garde score by Stravinsky – a collaboration that created a huge sensation, along with all of The Ballet Russes’ productions that contributed to an important transition in the world of performing dance.

The Ballets Russe, conceived by Sergei Diaghilev in Paris in 1909, is widely considered the most influential ballet company of the 20th century. The itinerant company performed throughout Europe and the United States from 1909 to 1929, promoting ground-breaking artistic collaborations between choreographers, composers, designers, and dancers, all at the forefront of their several fields. The authentic productions, paired with the era’s progressively liberal artistic feel, helped transcend the art form of ballet beyond its classical, romantic roots, beyond France and toward the rest of the world.

The Afternoon of a Faun, choreographed by Nijinsky in 1912, is considered one of the first modern ballets, with its unique, two dimensional style, and content that was controversial for its time period. *The Afternoon of a Faun* represents the transition from ballet’s romantic, classical era to the more contemporary concept of ballet.



For Immediate Release
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Michel Fokine's *Les Sylphides* also represents the transition from the past conservative eras of dance to the more liberal present style, choreographed with a romantic foundation. Fokine's *Les Sylphides* is a short, non-narrative ballet, as opposed to the classical story ballets from the previous decades.

In addition to the dynamic choreography, The Ballets Russes' unique use of scores, sets and costumes created a dramatic mood and atmosphere, which is especially apparent in *Le Spectre de la Rose*, Michel Fokine's dramatic collaboration with Stravinsky from 1911. This ballet was on the program the night that Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* premiered in 1913.

Boca Ballet Theatre's *Return to Russe* is a unique chance to take a journey back to the most enchanting era of dance, through this electric and exuberant production.

Performances will be held on Saturday, August 3 at 8:00pm, and Sunday, August 4 at 2:00pm at the University Theatre at Florida Atlantic University (777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL. 33431). Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$25 for children and seniors. Please call 561.995.0709 or visit www.bocaballet.org for tickets and more information.

About Boca Ballet Theatre:

Established in 1990, BBT is a nonprofit, award-winning civic ballet company that trains dance students, entertains audiences, and inspires the community through successful outreach programs. Under the guidance of Co-Artistic Directors Dan Guin and Jane Tyree, the mission is to enrich the cultural landscape of our community and educate its youth in classical ballet and concert dance through focused training, interaction with professional dancers and participation in full-length ballets and contemporary choreography. For more information visit www.bocaballet.org or call 561-995-0709.

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