

For Immediate Release

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Photo by David Seabrook

Boca Ballet Theatre Presents *Dance Fest – A Repertory Concert*

BOCA RATON - Saturday, May 3 – Sunday, May 4, 2014 - Boca Ballet Theatre presents *Dance Fest*, a mixed repertory concert comprised of a spicy blend of classical, neoclassical and contemporary work. The program features the choreographic talents of Co-Artistic Director, Dan Guin, and the Russian masters, George Balanchine and Marius Petipa, with an array of international guest artists. The audience is sure to be astounded when dancers perform the following classics in this special production.

Paquita, by Marius Petipa, known as “King of Russian classical ballet”, choreographed by Donald Tolj will feature guest stars Erica De La O and Kristopher Wojtera of Louisville Ballet. *Paquita’s* variations are some of ballet’s most celebrated examples of 19th-century classicism—and some of its most difficult. Choreographed for the Paris Opéra Ballet in 1846 by Joseph Mazilier, the story centers on a Spanish gypsy named Paquita, who saves the life of Lucien, a French aristocrat. When she discovers that she is of noble blood, they marry in a big celebration.

Born in Los Angeles, California, Erica De La O trained at Le Studio and danced with Columbia City Ballet before joining the Louisville Ballet in 2003. De La O was awarded 2nd place at the Music Center Spotlight Awards of Los Angeles and is a recipient of the 1999 John Orr Award from the Pasadena Arts Council. She was a finalist at the New York International Ballet Competition in 2003 and was invited to perform in the NYIBC Gala Performance at Lincoln Center receiving a favorable review from The New York Times.

Born in Poland, Kristopher Wojtera began his ballet studies at the National Ballet School in Gdansk, Poland. He danced with the Polish National Theatre in Warsaw, and then, upon moving to the United States, he became a soloist with Columbia City Ballet (South Carolina), and in 2003 he joined Louisville Ballet as a first soloist. He has performed as a guest artist with several different companies. In 2007, he was invited to perform *Swan Lake* with the English National Ballet. Kristopher is honored to have participated in the National Choreographers Initiative in Irvine, California for four summers.



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Valse-Fantaisie was originally choreographed by Balanchine for the State Opera of Hamburg in 1969, and composed by Mikhail Glinka, “the Mozart of Russia”. Elise Born will be returning to Boca Ballet Theatre to stage the production, which will feature Shannon Smith, a frequent guest artist at Boca Ballet Theatre. In addition to his extensive training, Mr. Smith has performed with Sarasota Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Dayton Ballet, and Ballet Florida, to name a few. He is currently on the Dance Faculty at Saint Andrews School.

Boca Baroque, choreographed by Dan Guin, is set to “Concerto in D for 3 Trumpets” by German baroque composer, Georg Philipp Telemann, and features baroque trumpets and horns.

Piano Man is a playful piece choreographed by jazz innovator Michael Williams as a tribute to the black and white cartoons of the 1930s. Set to a score of Liberace's flamboyant music, this piece brings to life animated images of a keyboard's octave.

Dance Fest – A Repertory Concert

Saturday, May 3, 2014 @8pm

Sunday, May 4, 2014 @2pm

Olympic Heights Performing Arts Theater, 20101 Lyons Road Boca Raton, FL 33434

Tickets are \$20 - \$35 for adults and \$10 - \$25 for children and seniors.

To purchase tickets:

Visit www.bocaballet.org or call 561.995.0709

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. Please call 561.995.0709 or visit www.bocaballet.org for more information.