

DANCEst NEWS

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DANCE ST. LOUIS ANNOUNCES 2011-2012 SEASON

ST. LOUIS, June 17, 2011.....Dance St. Louis opens its 46th season of bringing great dance of the world to St. Louis in October with the long-awaited return to St. Louis of the revolutionary Martha Graham Dance Company, and closes on Memorial Day Weekend with the 5th Annual Emerson *SPRING TO DANCE® FESTIVAL 2012* featuring 30 different dance companies from across the Midwest and beyond..

Dance St. Louis' 2011-2012 season opens at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on October 14 and 15 when, as part of the American Arts Experience—St. Louis and co-presented by Centene, **Martha Graham Dance Company** performs in St. Louis for the first time in 20 years. The program showcases Graham's intense, earth-centered dances that forever transformed how dancers move, including the classic *Appalachian Spring*.

On November 1-13 at the Fox Theatre, Dance St. Louis and the U.S. Bank Broadway Series co-present ***Billy Elliot the Musical***, winner of ten 2009 Tony Awards® including Best Musical. The show is inspired by the smash-hit movie about a coal miner's son who discovers his unexpected talent and passion for ballet.

On January 27 and 28 at the Touhill, the 40 dancers, singers, musicians, and guest artists of **Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater** highlight Hispanic cultures from around the world. The finale of their program of folkloric and classical Spanish dances is their smoldering flamenco rendition of Ravel's *Bolero*.

The acclaimed Broadway revival of ***West Side Story***, with the original Jerome Robbins choreography, on February 14-26 is another co-presentation at the Fox with the U.S. Bank Broadway Series. The edgy contemporary **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago** performs at Powell Hall on February 17-19 in collaboration with the STL Symphony.

The Joffrey Ballet, seen frequently in Dance St. Louis' *Nutcracker at the Fox*, comes to the Touhill on March 9 and 10 with a stunning program by contemporary masters. A highlight is *Age of Innocence* by a brilliant new voice in American dance, Edwaard Liang, inspired by the world of Jane Austen's novels.

Another leading American ballet company performs at the Touhill on April 13 and 14—the eclectic and engaging **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet**. Co-presented with Novus International, Inc., the vibrant troupe performs works by both veteran and up-and-coming European and American choreographers.

On May 24, 25 and 26, Dance St. Louis and the Touhill co-present the 5th Annual Emerson ***SPRING TO DANCE® FESTIVAL 2011***, the Memorial Day Weekend extravaganza of 30 dance companies from across the Midwest and beyond, for three different programs over three nights at only \$10 per night.

Season ticket packages are currently on sale through the Dance St. Louis box office at 314.534.6622 or dancestlouis.org. Single tickets for Martha Graham Dance Company, Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, The Joffrey Ballet, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, and the 5th Annual Emerson *SPRING TO DANCE FESTIVAL 2012* go on sale September 6, the Tuesday after Labor Day. Tickets for *Billy Elliot the Musical* are now on sale. Single tickets for *West Side Story* go on sale in Fall 2011. Single tickets for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago go on sale through the STL Symphony on August 12.

Ameren is the 2011-2012 season presenting sponsor. Dance St. Louis is supported by the Arts and Education Council, Missouri Arts Council, Regional Arts Commission, Mid-America Arts Alliance, National Endowment for the Arts, and New England Foundation for the Arts. American Airlines is the official airline.