

DANCE *StL* NEWS

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2011-2012 DANCE ST. LOUIS SEASON OPENS SEPTEMBER 13 SINGLE TICKETS FOR MOST SHOWS ON SALE SEPTEMBER 6

ST. LOUIS, August 1, 2011..... Dance St. Louis opens its 46th season of bringing great dance of the world in September with a special encore presentation of MOMIX in the dazzling fantasy spectacle *Botanica*, and follows in October with the long-awaited return of the revolutionary Martha Graham Dance Company. The 2011-2012 season 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.

"The season will take us on a journey through the marvel that is dance in America," said Michael Uthoff, Dance St. Louis artistic & executive director. The nine shows are as follows:

MOMIX in <i>Botanica</i>	September 13	Touhill Performing Arts Center
Martha Graham Dance Company	October 14 & 15	Touhill
<i>Billy Elliot the Musical</i>	November 1-13	Fox Theatre
Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater	January 27 & 28	Touhill
<i>West Side Story</i>	February 14-26	Fox
The Joffrey Ballet	March 9 & 10	Touhill
Aspen Santa Fe Ballet	April 13 & 14	Touhill
<i>Riverdance</i>	May 18-20	Fox
5th Annual Emerson <i>SPRING TO DANCE® FESTIVAL 2012</i>	May 24-26	Touhill

Single tickets for MOMIX in *Botanica* go on sale August 15. 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 at 9:30 a.m. on September 6, the Tuesday after Labor Day.

Billy Elliot the Musical, *West Side Story*, and *Riverdance* are co-presented with the U.S. Bank Broadway Series. Tickets for *Billy Elliot the Musical* are now on sale. Single tickets for *West Side Story* and *Riverdance* go on sale September 24.

In addition, on **February 17-19**, the edgy contemporary **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago** performs at Powell Hall in collaboration with the STL Symphony. Single tickets for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago go on sale through the STL Symphony on August 12.

Season ticket packages are currently on sale through the Dance St. Louis box office at 314-534-6622 or dancestlouis.org. Prices range from \$99 to \$209.

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.

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Dance St. Louis' 2011-2012 season opens at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on September 13 with a one-night-only encore performance of the dancer-illusionists of **MOMIX in *Botanica***. With a parade of hypnotic images that flow across the stage in scene after dazzling scene, *Botanica* celebrates the glory and mystery of Nature. MOMIX creator and Pilobolus co-founder Moses Pendleton creates a trip through a magical garden by combining fantastical props and costumes, ingenious effects, sensuous choreography, and fabulous acrobatic feats. Dance St. Louis presented MOMIX in *Botanica* at the Touhill this past April. The September 13 performance is co-presented with the Touhill in cooperation with the St. Louis College of Pharmacy. *Performance is at 7:30 p.m. All tickets are \$35.*

On October 14 and 15 at the Touhill, the **Martha Graham Dance Company** returns to St. Louis for the first time in 20 years. The company's repertory spans the eight decades of Martha Graham's revolutionary career that made her one of the seminal artists of the 20th century and transformed the way dancers move. The program highlights her earth-centered, emotionally acute choreography, including the beloved classic set to Aaron Copland's transcendent music, *Appalachian Spring*. Founded by Graham in 1926, the New York-based company has been directed since 2005 by former Graham principal dancer Janet Eilber. Dance St. Louis most recently presented the company in February 1991, two months before Graham, who was still creating new works, died at age 97. The performances are co-presented with Centene Corporation and are part of the *American Arts Experience – St. Louis*. *Performances are at 8 p.m. on Oct. 14 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Oct. 15. Tickets are \$35-\$50 evenings, \$30 for all seats Saturday matinee.*

The first of three co-presentations with the U.S. Bank Broadway Series at the Fox Theatre is **Billy Elliot the Musical** on November 1-13. Based on the international smash-hit film about a coal miner's son who discovers an unexpected passion for ballet, *Billy Elliot* features music by Elton John and is the winner of ten 2009 Tony Awards including Best Musical and Best Choreography for Peter Darling's dances. *Performances are at 8 p.m. on Nov. 1-4, Nov. 8-9, and Nov. 11; at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Nov. 5 and Nov. 12; at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 6; at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Nov. 10; and at 2 p.m. on Nov. 13. Tickets are \$33-\$80.*

On January 27 and 28 at the Touhill, the 40 dancers, singers, musicians and guest artists of Chicago's celebrated **Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater** highlight a mosaic of Hispanic cultures from around the world. Their repertory—created during 36 years of national and international performances—includes more than 125 dances in flamenco, folkloric, and classical Spanish styles. The finale of their St. Louis program will be their smoldering flamenco rendition of Ravel's *Bolero*. The company was featured in Dance St. Louis' *SPRING TO DANCE* festivals in 2008 and 2010. The January 2012 performances are the company's first full-length shows in St. Louis. Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater is directed by Jorge Pérez and founder Dame Libby Komaiko. *Performances are at 8 p.m. on Jan. 27 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Jan. 28. Tickets are \$35-\$50 evenings, \$30 for all seats Saturday matinee.*

The acclaimed 2009 Broadway revival of **West Side Story** comes to the Fox on February 14-26 co-presented with the U.S. Bank Broadway Series. The production is directed by David Saint using Tony Award-winning librettist Arthur Laurents' Broadway direction. The Jerome Robbins choreography is reproduced by Tony Award-nominee Joey McKneely. With a celebrated score by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim, *West Side Story* was created in 1957, transposing Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* into New York City. *Performances are at 8 p.m. Feb. 14-17; at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 18; at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19; at 8 p.m. Feb. 21-22 and 24; at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 23; at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 25; and at 2 p.m. Feb. 26.*

The Joffrey Ballet flexes its muscles in a contemporary program of dances by modern masters at the Touhill on March 9 and 10. A pioneer in ballet creativity since it was founded in 1956, the company performs the darkly romantic *Pretty BALLEt* by James Kudelka, the electro-punk *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated* by William Forsythe, and *Age of Innocence* by the brilliant young American choreographer Edwaard Liang—“a thrilling, emotionally incendiary piece” (*Chicago Sun-Times*) inspired by the passionate undercurrents running through Jane Austen’s novels. The Joffrey Ballet was featured in Dance St. Louis’ *Nutcracker at the Fox* from 2007 to 2010 but has not performed a program of repertory dances in St. Louis since 2001. Founded by Robert Joffrey and Gerald Arpino, the company has been directed since 2007 by Ashley Wheater. *Performances are at 8 p.m. on Mar. 9 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Mar. 10. Tickets are \$40-\$60 evenings, \$40 for all seats Saturday matinee.*

On April 13 and 14 at the Touhill, the vibrant **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet** will perform works by veteran and up-and-coming European and American choreographers. Hailed as “a company to be reckoned with” by *Dance Magazine* and “a breath of fresh air” by the *New York Times*, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet enjoys a burgeoning national reputation for its top-flight dancers and eclectic and engaging repertory. The company was founded in 1995 and boasts dual citizenship in Aspen, Colorado, and Santa Fe, New Mexico. It is directed by Tom Mossbrucker and Jean-Philippe Malaty, former dancers with the Joffrey Ballet and Joffrey II. Dance St. Louis previously presented Aspen Santa Fe Ballet in St. Louis in 2007. The performances are co-presented with Novus International, Inc. *Performances are at 8 p.m. on Apr. 13 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Apr. 14. Tickets are \$35-\$50 evenings, \$30 for all seats Saturday matinee.*

Riverdance, the internationally acclaimed celebration of Irish culture in music, song and dance, returns to the Fox co-presented with the U.S. Bank Broadway Series on May 18-20. Now in its 17th year, *Riverdance* is paying an encore visit to St. Louis as part of the company’s multi-year farewell tour of North America (the show appeared at the Fox on the farewell tour in 2009). *Performances are at 8 p.m. on May 18, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on May 19, and at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on May 20. Tickets are \$26-\$70.*

On May 24, 25 and 26, Dance St. Louis and the Touhill co-present the **5th Annual Emerson SPRING TO DANCE® FESTIVAL 2012**. On the Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend, dancers from 30 companies throughout the Midwest and beyond will showcase a host of works from cutting-edge to classic, with a different program every evening. *Performances begin at 5:30 p.m. for the lobby, 6 p.m. for the Lee Theater, and 7:30 p.m. for the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall. All tickets are \$10 per night.*

There are two season ticket packages currently on sale.

- **PREMIUM, \$131 to \$209:** Five shows—Martha Graham Dance Company, Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, The Joffrey Ballet, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, 5th Annual Emerson *SPRING TO DANCE FESTIVAL 2012*

- **SATURDAY MATINEE \$99 SAMPLER:** Four shows, matinee performances— Martha Graham Dance Company, Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, The Joffrey Ballet, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

MOMIX in *Botanica*, *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *West Side Story*, *Riverdance* and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago are not included in season packages.

Founded in 1966, Dance St. Louis is dedicated to the enrichment of the cultural landscape and artistic reputation of St. Louis by presenting great dance companies and educational opportunities that make dance accessible to everyone.