

# MILWAUKEE BALLET

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Leslie Rivers

O: 414-902-2102/C: 414-510-0052

lrivers@milwaukeeballet.org

## **Milwaukee Ballet kicks off 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with classical comedy *Coppélia***

-World-famous work takes centerstage at the Marcus Center Oct 17-20-

**MILWAUKEE – October 16, 2019** – Milwaukee Ballet opens its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with the first full-length work it presented in 1970, *Coppélia*. The world-famous comedy returns to the Marcus Performing Arts Center with five performances running Oct 17-20.

“I’m honored to lead the company during such an exciting, transformational time. Celebrating a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is a tremendous accomplishment,” said Milwaukee Ballet Artistic Director Michael Pink. “I chose to open the season with *Coppélia* to honor its special history with our organization. It was also important to invite the community to celebrate with us, and I wanted a work that was upbeat with something for everyone to enjoy. Ballet aficionados will appreciate its famous dance variations, while newcomers will be enchanted by its comedic elements and the romance at the heart of the story.”

“*Coppélia* is also one of the greatest works in the classical ballet world,” Pink added. “The same way everyone should see *Swan Lake* or any of the great Shakespeare plays in their lifetime, everyone should see this piece.”

*Coppélia* follows the story of a doll so beautiful it steals the heart of a local villager, causing his fiancée to concoct a crazy plan to win him back.

Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra will perform Léo Delibes score under the baton of Associate Music Director Andrews Sill.

### **Ticket Information**

*Coppélia* runs October 17-20 at the Marcus Performing Arts Center, 929 N Water Street in Milwaukee, Wis.

Tickets start at \$40 and can be purchased online at [milwaukeeballet.org](http://milwaukeeballet.org) or through Milwaukee Ballet’s box office at 414-902-2103. Walk-up sales are also available at the Marcus Performing Arts Center.

The performance schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, October 17, 7:30pm

- Friday, October 18, 7:30pm
- Saturday, October 19, 1:30pm
- Saturday, October 19, 7:30pm
- Sunday, October 20, 1:30pm

### **Principal Casting**

	<b>Oct 17 and Oct 19 (evening)</b>	<b>Oct 18 and Oct 20</b>	<b>Oct 19 (matinee)</b>
Swanhilda	Marize Fumero	Annia Hidalgo	Lahna Vanderbush
Franz	Davit Hovhannisyanyan	Randy Crespo	Parker Brassier-Vos
Dr. Coppelius	Timothy O'Donnell	Patrick Howell	Timothy O'Donnell

### **FREE Pre-Show Presentations**

Milwaukee Ballet invites ticket buyers to arrive early and learn more about the production in the Marcus Performing Arts Center Atrium. No registration required. The topics are as follows:

- **Thursday, Oct 17**  
**6:45pm**  
Music historian Meaghan Heinrich offers insight into Leo Delibes' indelible score for this classical masterpiece.
- **Friday, Oct 18**  
**6:45pm**  
On this special night of the 50th Anniversary celebration, Milwaukee Ballet invites former dancers who have become teachers to discuss their career highlights and training up the next generation. Join the company in the Marcus Center atrium at 6:45pm to hear from Melissa Anderson, Jennifer Grapes and Jennifer Miller.
- **Saturday, Oct 19**  
**12:30pm**  
Milwaukee Ballet invites its youngest ballet fans to join in the fun of this comedy and bring their favorite doll for a Tea Party just before the show.
- **Saturday, Oct 19**  
**6:45pm**  
On this night of the 50th Anniversary Celebration, we shine a spotlight on Milwaukee Ballet women who have starred as Swanhilda, a role The New York Times called "game changing." Join the company at 6:45 in the Marcus Center atrium to hear from Anne Finch (1992), Luz San Miguel (2011) and Annia Hidalgo (2019). Former Executive Director Carolyn Stephens also joins the conversation.

- **Sunday, Oct 20**

**12:45pm**

Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy hosts a class for children ages 4-12. No previous experience required.

### **Credits**

Choreography: Michael Pink

after Arthur Saint-Léon

Music: Léo Delibes

Scenic Design: Alun Jones

Costume Design: David Heuvel

Lighting Design: David Grill

Conductor: Pasquale Laurino

### **50th Anniversary Season**

Milwaukee Ballet celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019-20. The Company opens the season with the first full-length ballet it ever presented, *Coppélia*, and continues with *The Nutcracker*, *Ballet Russe Reimagined*, *PUSH*. and Michael Pink's *Peter Pan*.

The 2019-20 season is sponsored by Donna and Donald Baumgartner, We Energies Foundation and BMO Harris Bank.

### **About Milwaukee Ballet**

Founded in 1970, Milwaukee Ballet celebrates its 50th Anniversary this season. Led by Artistic Director Michael Pink, Milwaukee Ballet transforms lives and connects communities through inspiring performance, community engagement, education and training. Milwaukee Ballet hosts an international company of dancers and is one of the few companies in the nation to maintain its own orchestra. Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy is one of 15 professional ballet schools in the country to be accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD), and is the only one in the Midwest. Milwaukee Ballet's award-winning Community Engagement department serves 30,000 people in Southeastern Wisconsin each year through original, interactive programs.

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**Note to Editors:** Interviews with Milwaukee Ballet Artistic Director Michael Pink/key artists, biographies, and high-resolution images are available upon request.