

The Professional Ballet Company of St. Louis

SAINT LOUIS BALLET

For Immediate Release

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World's Favorite Ballet!

St. Louis Ballet Presents *Swan Lake* April 1-3 at the Touhill

(St. Louis, MO) Saint Louis Ballet's Artistic Director Gen Horiuchi revives what many consider to be the world's most popular ballet. *Swan Lake*, set to the glorious Tchaikovsky score, concludes the company's 2015-16 season April 1-3 on the vast Touhill stage.

"This is classic ballet at it's best. And with the release of the movie 'Black Swan' the traditional ballet Swan Lake has become wildly popular among today's audiences of all kinds. There's just something so beautiful about seeing so many white tutus on stage forming the same lines and moving in a such a fluid way---portraying swans. I'm bringing it back to close out the season and hope many will revisit it or see it for the first time live on stage by the Saint Louis Ballet dancers." ~Gen Horiuchi

Last performed by Saint Louis Ballet in 2010, *Swan Lake* features traditional elements along with Horiuchi's imaginative choreography. Premiered by the Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow in 1877, it captures the story of the princess Odette who was turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse. Filled with magic, love and beauty, *Swan Lake* has been presented in many versions and beloved by audiences around the globe.



WHAT: Saint Louis Ballet's *Swan Lake*

WHERE: Touhill Performing Arts Center, 1 University Drive, St. Louis (on the campus of UMSL)

WHEN: Evening performances April 1 and April 2 at 8:00pm | Matinees April 2 and 3 at 2:30pm

TICKETS: \$32-\$51 (Discounts for students and groups).
In person at the Touhill Box Office (1 University Drive),
by phone (314.516.4949) or at www.touhill.org

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Saint Louis Ballet is also pleased to welcome **JERSEY BOYS** to The Fabulous Fox Theatre as a special on the U.S. Bank Broadway Series.

MORE ABOUT SAINT LOUIS BALLET:

Saint Louis Ballet is the region's only professional ballet company. Under the direction of former New York City Ballet principal dancer Gen Horiuchi, its 24 classically trained dancers are selected in a competitive national audition and come to St. Louis from training programs and ballet companies throughout the world. The company's repertoire includes full-length ballets such as *Romeo & Juliet* and *Cinderella* as well as contemporary work from renowned choreographers such as George Balanchine, Christopher d'Amboise, Jessica Lang and Michael Uthoff. In addition to a season of fully mounted productions, Saint Louis Ballet operates a ballet training program.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Gen Horiuchi has been the artistic director of the Saint Louis Ballet Company and School since 2000. He has created over 20 original works for the company and has spearheaded the growth of the School based in Chesterfield. Raised in Tokyo, Japan by parents who were professional ballet dancers, he won the prestigious Prix de Lausanne, the international ballet competition in Switzerland in 1980 (and since 1993 has been a judge for the competition). He then received a scholarship to study at the School of American Ballet. In 1982, he was invited by George Balanchine to join the New York City Ballet, where he became a principal dancer in 1989. He's danced on Broadway in *Song and Dance* and was also Mr. Mistoffelees in the musical *Cats*, both on Broadway and in London's West End. He choreographed the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan in 1998. In 2004, he was honored in New York City with the Seventh Cultural Bridge Award together with Harold Prince, (director of *Phantom of the Opera*). He has directed the Aoyama Ballet Festival in Tokyo with artists in major companies from around the world. And since 2010, he has been directing *Gen Horiuchi's Ballet USA* each summer in Osaka, Japan where he sets his own choreography on professional dancers and brings guests like Miyako Yoshida, former Royal Ballet principal, to dance alongside him to sold out audiences.

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