



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release date: Friday, February 15, 2013

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**ARTS San Antonio presents
The Joffrey Ballet
performs *The Rite of Spring*
March 8, 2013, 7:30 p.m.**

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS – ARTS San Antonio presents **The Joffrey Ballet performs *The Rite of Spring*** on Friday, March 8, 2013, 7:30 p.m. at Lila Cockrell Theatre. *The Rite of Spring* was originally performed in Paris in 1913. The music and choreography was considered so controversial that the debut performance caused a riot.

The world-renowned The Joffrey Ballet has revived this unforgettable ballet with choreography by Vaslav Nijinsky and set to the music of composer Igor Stravinsky. This performance will be The Joffrey Ballet's first appearance in San Antonio in more than 20 years.

The Rite of Spring depicts a pagan rite involving tribal elders watching the annual fertility ritual where a young girl dances herself to death. Nijinsky's demanding choreography was so unfamiliar to the classically trained dancers that many of them rebelled. Stravinsky's polyrhythms were monumentally difficult. Nijinsky created the role of the Chosen One in *Le Sacre* for his sister, Bronislava, who became pregnant and could not perform. She was replaced by Maria Plitz who danced the role to acclaim. By the final rehearsals, most of the dancers believed in the ballet, though everyone, including Diaghilev, the founder of *Ballets Russes*, was anxious about the audience reaction to the new work.

At the 1913 Paris premiere, pandemonium broke out in the theatre. Some individuals in the audience howled, whistled and heckled the dancers and orchestra in response to the violent fertility rite, drowning out the music. Patrons fought in the aisles. There was chaos at the *Théâtre des Champs-Élysées* and the ensuing riot has become legend. *Le Sacre* nevertheless made a profound impression and is considered by many to be the tumultuous birth of modernism in ballet. Stravinsky's score is prominent in the repertoire of the world's great orchestras and more than 200 choreographers have since created their own versions.

Only the Joffrey's recreation turned legend back into artifact. It was meticulously researched and reconstructed by Millicent Hodson and Kenneth Archer and is recognized internationally as the closest possible version of Nijinsky's original. This reconstruction is a testimony to the ardent desire of Joffrey founders Robert Joffrey and Gerald Arpino to revive rare classics which the company still presents with great care, allowing audiences to experience the defining treasures of ballet.

Mauro Villanueva is a San Antonio native who attended the Joffrey Workshop Texas and became a full company member of The Joffrey Ballet in 2002. He will perform when the Joffrey Ballet visits San Antonio.

The Joffrey Experience is made up of six events in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the performance of ***The Rite of Spring***. Joffrey Experience Honorary Chairs are **Phil and Linda Hardberger**. Co-Chairs of the Joffrey Experience are **Margaret R. Kanyusik** and **Barbara L. Stevens**. Gold Presenting sponsor is **Capital Group Companies**.

Tickets and Information – Tickets to the Joffrey Ballet performs *The Rite Of Spring* begin at just \$29. To purchase a reservation, call ARTS SA at (210) 226-2891, visit ARTS SA's office at 418 10th Street, San Antonio or visit ArtsSA.org/Joffrey. For information about Joffrey Experience sponsorships or *à la carte* tickets to one or more Joffrey events, the same contact information applies.

Two More Joffrey Experience Events

- **Dance for Your Life Cast Party** with members of the Joffrey Ballet immediately following the performance at the Grotto and Lonesome Dove Room at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Guests may enjoy food stations and a cash bar. Free admission with \$110 Premium level ballet tickets, while supplies last. Otherwise, admission to the Cast Party costs \$50.

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- **Master Classes with the Ballet Master of The Joffrey Ballet** presented in association with San Antonio Metropolitan Ballet and the Joffrey Workshop Texas on Saturday, March 9, 2013. Intermediate and Advanced classes are \$35. Non-participant observers may attend for \$10.

Benefit and about ARTS SA – All Joffrey Experience events benefit ARtsTEach, ARTS SA's participatory arts workshops that serve thousands of elementary-school students and seniors in San Antonio.

ARTS SA is the leading nonprofit presenter of globally significant performing arts in South Texas working to improve the quality and quantity of globally significant cultural experiences in San Antonio. ARTS SA performances are supported by the City of San Antonio's Department for Culture and Creative Development, *San Antonio Express-News*, Capital Group Companies, Kronkosky Charitable Foundation, Texas Commission on the Arts, National Endowment for Arts and theFund.