

For Immediate Release

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**"Alessandra Ferri: Art of the Pas de Deux" to Showcase Romantic Ballet
Duets Valentine's Weekend**

Performers to include principal dancers from American Ballet Theatre, English National Ballet, La Scala Theatre Ballet and the Boston Ballet

Feb. 16 at the Detroit Opera House

Detroit, Feb. 6 - Michigan Opera Theatre will present a ballet program featuring ballet legend Alessandra Ferri and ballet stars from American Ballet Theatre, English National Ballet, La Scala Theatre Ballet and the Boston Ballet, among others. "Alessandra Ferri: Art of the Pas de Deux" will include a series of classical ballet duets including "Swan Lake," "La Sylphide" and "The Dying Swan," as well as several contemporary works. The program will take place Feb. 16, Valentine's Weekend, and also offer "Ballet with Your Beloved," an intimate pre-show dinner.

"This program is incredibly romantic and a perfect experience to share with your loved one for Valentine's Day," said MOT Principal Conductor Stephen Lord. "Alessandra Ferri is one of ballet's biggest stars, and we are thrilled to present her to our Detroit audiences, along with other world-renowned dancers."

Ferri holds the rare title of "prima ballerina assoluta," "absolute first principal ballerina." The honor is awarded to the best female dancers in a generation and has only been bestowed upon 11 women since its inception in 1894. Ferri, 55, has enjoyed a career longer than most ballet dancers. She has performed with the world's most prestigious companies including the Royal Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and La Scala Theatre Ballet, as well as with the best choreographers and dancers in the industry.

In addition to Ferri, dancers include principal dancers Herman Cornejo (American Ballet Theatre), Marcelo Gomes (The Sarasota Ballet, American Ballet Theatre), Jeffrey Cirio (English National Ballet, American Ballet Theatre), Misa Kuranaga (Boston Ballet), Ricardo Graziano (The Sarasota Ballet), Oksana Maslova (Pennsylvania Ballet) and Kate Honea (The Sarasota Ballet). The program will be performed to live music from the Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra, conducted by David LaMarche, and will also feature soprano Mary-Hollis Hundley.

"Ballet with Your Beloved" will feature a seated dinner in the Detroit Opera House Black Box Theatre, serving gourmet food including sautéed shrimp and filet mignon. Tickets include valet parking and a take-home box of truffles.

The program is made possible by 2018-19 Dance Sponsor, Lear Corporation.

Ticket prices for the performance range from \$30-\$90. Ticket prices for the dinner are \$125 and do not include tickets for the performance. Tickets may be purchased online at www.MichiganOpera.org, by calling (313) 237-7464 or in person at the Detroit Opera House (1526 Broadway, Detroit). Additional information is available at <https://michiganopera.org/dance/alessandra-ferri-art-of-the-pas-de-deux/>.

Alessandra Ferri: Art of the Pas de Deux

Saturday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Program

La Sylphide

Dancers: Oksana Maslova, Jeffrey Cirio

Choreography: August Bournonville

Music: Jean-Madeleine Schneitzhoeffter

Mirrors That Hang from Family Trees

Dancer: Marcelo Gomes

Choreography: Nicholas Palmquist

Music: Agnes Obel

Piano: Ivan Moshchuk

The Dying Swan

Dancer: Misa Kuranaga

Choreography: Mikhail Fokine

Music: Camille Saint-Saëns

Cello: Andre Yun

Harp: Patricia Terry-Ross

Concerto Six Twenty Two

Dancers: Marcelo Gomes, Ricardo Graziano

Choreography: Lar Lubovich

Music: W.A. Mozart, Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra

Clarinet: Brian Bowman

Witness

Dancers: Alessandra Ferri, Herman Cornejo

Choreography: Wayne McGregor

Music: Nils Frahm

Swan Lake - White Swan Pas de Deux

Dancers: Oksana Maslova, Herman Cornejo

Choreography: Marius Petipa, Lev Ivanov

Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Swan Lake - Black Swan Pas de Deux

Dancers: Misa Kuranaga, Jeffrey Cirio

Choreography: Marius Petipa, Lev Ivanov

Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

After the Rain

Dancers: Alessandra Ferri, Marcelo Gomes

Choreography: Christopher Wheeldon

Music: Arvo Pärt

Violin: Eliot Heaton

Piano: Ivan Moshchuk

Shall I breathe?

Dancers: Ricardo Graziano, Kate Honea

Singer: Mary-Hollis Hundley

Choreography: Marco Pelle

Music: "Mild Und Leise", (*Tristan Und Isolde*), Richard Wagner

Le Parc

Dancers: Alessandra Ferri, Herman Cornejo

Choreography: Angelin Preljocaj

Music: Andante from W.A. Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 in A

Violin: Eliot Heaton

Piano: Ivan Moshchuk

Ballet with Your Beloved Menu

Beet and Corn Polenta Cake

layered with spinach and cream cheese, red pepper coulis and smoked salmon rose

Fresh Jumbo Gulf Shrimp Sautéed to Order

tossed in a white wine, lemon and crab butter sauce

accented with asparagus tips, crumbled applewood smoked bacon

savory rolls, citrus butter

Chargrilled Filet of Beef Tenderloin with Zip Sauce

yukon gold potato tower accented with Gorgonzola cream

Moroccan Chickpea Cake with Lemongrass and Coconut Reduction

pea, arugula and mint salad

sliced baguettes

Opera Cakes

layers of sponge cake, coffee buttercream, chocolate ganache

topped with chocolate mirror glaze

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About Michigan Opera Theatre

Michigan Opera Theatre, one of the nation's most vibrant nonprofit arts organizations, is committed to presenting opera and dance of the highest artistic caliber. Founded in 1971 by Dr. David DiChiera, the company's mission is to serve as a major cultural resource to the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit. The organization is led by President and CEO Wayne S. Brown, Principal Conductor Stephen Lord and Chairman of the Board Rick Williams. Visit the website at www.michiganopera.org.