



PRESS RELEASE

Hamburg, September 14, 2011

THE HAMBURG BALLETT season opens on October 1: Our highlights until December from *Lady of the Camellias* to *Liliom*

On October 1, THE HAMBURG BALLETT opens the ballet season in Hamburg with *Lady of the Camellias*. John Neumeier marks the first months of the season with the world premiere of *Liliom* and the revival of *Third Symphony by Gustav Mahler*. THE HAMBURG BALLETT welcomes two internationally acclaimed dancers who will perform with the company: Alina Cojocaru and Roberto Bolle. For the festive season, two popular ballets by John Neumeier return to the stage of the Hamburg State Opera: *Christmas Oratory* and *The Nutcracker*.

For the opening of the season, John Neumeier has invited two stars of the ballet scene: **Alina Cojocaru** and **Roberto Bolle** will perform with THE HAMBURG BALLETT in *Lady of the Camellias*. In the first series of performances, Alina Cojocaru will dance Marguerite, partnering with Alexandre Riabko as Armand (Oct 3/19, Nov 1). Roberto Bolle will interpret Armand with H el ene Bouchet as his Marguerite (Oct 1/4).

In October, **Roberto Bolle** will also be dancing *Orpheus* for the first time. So far, the Italian has not yet been able to dance the role which John Neumeier created for him as he was injured at the time of the world premiere. He will dance two performances (Oct 27/28) with H el ene Bouchet as his Eurydice.

Liliom, written by Ferenc Moln ar in 1909, counts among theatre classics. With *Carousel* the play was adapted as a musical, popular until today. Now, John Neumeier creates a "ballet legend" based on the story set in the milieu of fairs. Academy Award winner Michel Legrand composed the score, merging elements of classical and jazz music. The Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra and the Big Band of the NDR (Northern German Television and Radio) will work jointly on the world premiere of the music. John Neumeier will create the female lead role Julie for Alina Cojocaru.

The first revival of the season will be dedicated to Gustav Mahler, marking the end of the anniversary year: On November 3, THE HAMBURG BALLETT will perform *Third Symphony by Gustav Mahler*, John Neumeier's first symphonic ballet for the first time in Hamburg since 2004.

Christmas Oratory and *The Nutcracker* will return to the Hamburg stage for the **festive season**. There will be a total of four performances of John Neumeier's choreographic reading of Johann Sebastian Bach's oratory until January. His interpretation of Tchaikovsky's ballet classic will be performed six times.

Apart from the performances in Hamburg, the company will be **on tour** twice before the year ends: Currently, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is being performed in G utersloh (Sept 14/15). Starting October 8, the annual performances at the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden will take place. This year's programme includes *The Floating World*, *Orpheus* and a Ballet Workshop.

In Hamburg

World Premiere

Liliom

Ballet legend by John Neumeier based on the play by Ferenc Molnár

Music: Michel Legrand

(Commissioned by THE HAMBURG BALLET / the Hamburgische Staatsoper)

Choreography, Staging and Costumes: John Neumeier

Stage Design: Ferdinand Wögerbauer

Conductor: Simon Hewett

A cooperation with NDR Bigband

Premiere A: December 4, 6.00 p.m.

Premiere B: December 8, 7.30 p.m.

Performances: December 10, 19 and 20; January 5 and 6, 7.30 p.m.

Guest dancer:

Alina Cojocaru as Julie (Dec 4, 6, 20; Jan 5)

Revival

Third Symphony by Gustav Mahler

Ballet by John Neumeier

Music: Gustav Mahler

Choreography, Stage and Costume Design: John Neumeier

Conductor: Markus Lehtinen

Choir: Christian Günther

Alto: Maria Radner

Revival: November 5, 7.30 p.m.

Performances: November 6, 6.00 p.m.; November 10 and 18, 7.30 p.m.

Lady of the Camellias

Ballet by John Neumeier based on the novel by Alexandre Dumas

Music: Frédéric Chopin

Choreography and Staging: John Neumeier

Stage and Costume Design: Jürgen Rose

Conductor: Michael Schmidtsdorff

Pianists: Oliver Kern, Richard Hoynes

Performances: October 1, 3, 4 and 19; November 1, 7.30 p.m.

Guest dancers:

Roberto Bolle as Armand (Oct 1, 4)

Alina Cojocaru as Marguerite (Oct 3, 19; Nov 1)

Orpheus

Ballet by John Neumeier

Music: Igor Strawinsky, Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber, Peter Blegvad und Andy Partridge

Choreography, Staging, Costume and Light Design: John Neumeier

Stage Design: Ferdinand Wögerbauer

Conductor: Alexander Soddy

Solo-Violin: Daniel Garlitsky

Performances: October 27, 28, 7.30 p.m.; Nov 13, 6.00 p.m

Guest dancer:

Roberto Bolle as Orpheus (Oct 27, 28)

Christmas Oratory

Ballet by John Neumeier

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach

Choreography, Costume and Light Design: John Neumeier

Stage Design: Ferdinand Wögerbauer

Conductor: Alessandro De Marchi

Performances: November 20, 7.00 p.m.; December 11, 7.30 p.m., December 26, 3.00 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.; January 1, 6.00 p.m.

The Nutcracker

Ballet by John Neumeier

Music: Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Choreography and Staging: John Neumeier

Stage and Costume Design: Jürgen Rose

Conductor: Simon Hewett, Davor Krnjak (Dec 28, 29)

Performances: December 14 and 15, 7.00 p.m.; December 23, 2.30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.; December 28 and 29, 7.00 p.m.

Hamburgische Staatsoper (Großes Haus) –

Tickets: 4,- to 97,- Euro, call +49 – 40 – 35 68 68 or visit www.staatsoper-hamburg.de

Tours

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Ballet by John Neumeier

Theater Gütersloh

September 14 and 15

Further information and tickets: www.theater-gt.de

The Floating World

Orpheus

Ballets by John Neumeier

Ballet Workshop

Festspielhaus Baden-Baden

October 8 through 16

Further information and tickets: www.festspielhaus.de

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