



PRESS RELEASE

Hamburg, October 20th, 2011

Save the Date: World premiere of John Neumeier's *Liliom* with music by Michel Legrand // December 4th

Liliom, the first premiere of THE HAMBURG BALLETT's season 2011/2012, will be a genuine world premiere: John Neumeier is creating a ballet set in the milieu of fairs in the United States of the 1930s, based on Ferenc Molnár's popular theater play. It is the first time that the play is adapted for dance with an original score, written by Michel Legrand. John Neumeier will create the female lead role Julie for Alina Cojocaru.

Molnár's play *Liliom*, written in 1909, is today known as a theater classic and was adapted for films repeatedly. With *Carousel*, the play was also transformed into a musical, popular until today. Michel Legrand, widely known for his film music and winner of several Academy Awards, created the score for the "ballet legend in 7 scenes and a prologue, commissioned by THE HAMBURG BALLETT and the Hamburg State Opera. Michel Legrand's reputation builds on a variety of world-famous music scores. Among others, he wrote the original soundtracks for Norman Jewison's *The Thomas Crown Affair*, *Yentl* and the James Bond movie *Never Say Never Again*. Here, he is 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.

Liliom

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

Music: Michel Legrand

(Commissioned by THE HAMBURG BALLETT / 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)

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