



Press release

Hamburg, March 28, 2017

The Hamburg Ballet brings „The Little Mermaid“ to Washington D.C. John Neumeier’s successful ballet at The John F. Kennedy Center (March 28–April 2)

Following acclaimed performances at The Joyce Theater New York, the Hamburg Ballet continues its current US tour with seven performances at The John F. Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. The program features John Neumeier’s fairytale ballet “The Little Mermaid” which was created by the Artistic Director and Chief Choreographer of the Hamburg Ballet as a commission of the Royal Danish Ballet in 2005, celebrating the 200th anniversary of Hans Christian Andersen. The Hamburg Ballet presents “The Little Mermaid” in the version that was created by John Neumeier for his own company in 2007. The commissioned score was written by the Russian-American composer Lera Auerbach.

“The theme of my ballet is a particular form of love: The Little Mermaid offers unconditional love, but her love is unrequited. The story tells us: No matter how much we love, this does not guarantee our love will be returned. The Little Mermaid follows her inner voice, even though it means that she has to suffer physical and psychological torment,” explains John Neumeier.

The main roles will be danced by Lloyd Riggins (The Poet), Silvia Azzoni (The Little Mermaid/His Creation), Carsten Jung (Edvard/The Prince), Carolina Agüero (Henriette/The Princess) and Karen Azatyan (The Sea Witch). In the performance on March 30 and the matinee on April 1, there will be a second cast: Ivan Urban (The Poet), Xue Lin (The Little Mermaid/His Creation), Edvin Revazov (Edvard/The Prince), Florencia Chinellato (Henriette/The Princess) and Alexandre Riabko (The Sea Witch).

It is the second time that the Hamburg Ballet has been invited to The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., following a series of performances in 2004. In the United States, “The Little Mermaid” has already developed a performance tradition of its own. In 2011, it was staged by the San Francisco Ballet. Two years later, the ballet was performed by the Hamburg Ballet, when the company was on tour in Costa Mesa, Orange County.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington D.C.

“The Little Mermaid”

Ballet by John Neumeier based on Hans Christian Andersen

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Music: Lera Auerbach

Choreography, Staging, Set and Costumes: John Neumeier

Conductor: Luciano Di Martino

Solo Violin: Anton Barakhovsky

The Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra

Performances: March 28 to 31, 7.30 pm; April 1, 1.30 pm and 7.30 pm, April 2, 1.30 pm

Further information: www.kennedy-center.org