HoustonBallet

HOUSTON BALLET ANNOUNCES SIX NEW COMPANY DANCERS FOR THE 2018/19 SEASON, INCLUDING PRINCIPAL CARLOS QUENEDIT OF SAN FRANCISCO BALLET

PHOTOS: https://bit.ly/2LUQcEs

HOUSTON, TEXAS [July 25, 2018] – Houston Ballet is proud to announce the addition of six talented dancers to the Company roster for the 2018/19 Season, bringing Houston Ballet's Company to 60 members. The artists joining Houston Ballet include former San Francisco Ballet Principal Carlos Quenedit, Corps de Ballet members Chae Eun Yang and Luzemberg Santana, and Apprentices Kellen Hornbuckle, Madison Russo, and Jack Wolff.

Carlos Quenedit joins Houston Ballet as a principal dancer from San Francisco Ballet, where he danced from 2012-2017 and performed the roles of Albrecht in *Giselle*, the Nutcracker Prince in *Nutcracker*, and the lead role of Romeo in *Romeo & Juliet.* Born in Havana, Cuba, Quenedit trained with Escuela Nacional de Ballet de Cuba and later with The National Ballet of Canada on scholarship. Prior to joining San Francisco Ballet, Quenedit also performed with Ballet de Monterrey in Mexico from 2007-2008 and 2010-2012 and Miami City Ballet from 2008-2010. He has been a guest artist at Royal Winnipeg Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, and Houston Ballet, where he performed this past spring as Basilio in *Don Quixote*.

Chae Eun Yang returns to Houston Ballet as a member of the Corps de Ballet after spending a year with The National Ballet of Canada. Yang previously performed with Houston Ballet as a Corps de Ballet member from 2013-2017 and has performed roles in iconic productions like *The Sleeping Beauty*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *The Nutcracker*. She was born in Seoul, Korea, and trained at the Sunhwa Arts School, Korea National University of Arts, and the Universal Ballet Academy before beginning her first stint with Houston Ballet in 2013.

Luzemberg Santana joins Houston Ballet's Corps de Ballet from Tulsa Ballet, where he performed as a soloist in *Don Quixote* and danced in productions *Shibua Blues* and *If* from 2017-2018. Prior to his season with Tulsa Ballet, Santana danced with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet from 2012-2017, performing the lead roles of the Nutcracker Prince in *The Nutcracker* and Prince Siegfried in *Swan Lake*. He was born in João Pessoa, Paraíba in Brazil and began his training at the Bolshoi Theatre School of Brazil.

Kellen Hornbuckle joins Houston Ballet as an Apprentice, after being promoted from Houston Ballet's second company, Houston Ballet II, where she has trained full time since 2016. Originally from Virginia Beach, Virginia, Hornbuckle started attending Houston Ballet Academy's Summer Intensive Program in 2012 before joining the Academy year-round in 2016 as a member of HBII, where she performed alongside Houston Ballet's Company in productions like *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker*.

Madison Russo also joins Houston Ballet as an Apprentice after being promoted from Houston Ballet II. Russo left her home in West Palm Beach, Florida in 2015 at fifteen years old to train on full scholarship with Houston Ballet Academy. After two years as a level 8 student at Houston Ballet Academy, Russo became a member of HBII, where she performed with Houston Ballet in productions such as *Don Quixote*, *Mayerling*, and *Swan Lake*.

Jack Wolff joins Houston Ballet as an Apprentice after training at American Ballet Theatre's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School from 2015-2018 on full scholarship. Wolff has previously trained with Precision Dance Academy, the Houston MET Too Pre-Professional Program, and Houston's High School for the Performing Arts, while participating in summer intensives at The Juilliard School, Arts Umbrella, New York City Dance Alliance, American Ballet Theatre, French Academie of Ballet, and Houston Ballet Academy.

Houston Ballet is excited to welcome these six talented dancers to their company of world-class performers. To learn more about Houston Ballet's 2018/19 Company, please visit https://bit.ly/2NhHMb7.

ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET

Houston Ballet has evolved into a company of 60 dancers with a budget of $33 million, making it the country's fifth largest ballet company. With a state-of-the-art performance space built especially for the company—also the largest professional dance facility in America—Houston Ballet's $46.6 million Center for Dance opened in April 2011, with an endowment of just over $74.1 million (as of July 2017).

Australian choreographer Stanton Welch AM has served as Artistic Director of Houston Ballet since 2003, raising the level of the company's classical technique and commissioning works from dance makers such as Christopher Bruce, Alexander Ekman, William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Trey McIntyre, Julia Adam, Edwaard Liang, and George Balanchine. Executive Director James Nelson serves as the administrative leader of the company, a position he assumed in February 2012 after serving as the company's General Manager for more than a decade.

Houston Ballet has toured extensively both nationally and internationally. Over the past fifteen years, the company has appeared in renowned theaters in London, Paris, Moscow, Spain, Montréal, Ottawa, Melbourne, New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and in cities large and small across the United States.

Houston Ballet's Education and Community Engagement Program reaches more than 60,000 individuals in the Houston area annually. Houston Ballet Academy teaches more than one thousand students every year, and approximately 50 percent of the current company was trained by the Academy.

For more information on Houston Ballet, visit www.houstonballet.org.

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