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## **PASA PRESENTS BALLET MEMPHIS**

In an exclusive collection featuring choreography by Alvin Ailey Artistic Director,  
Robert Battle, Jane Comfort, Trey McIntyre and Julia Adam

### **Tickets Now Available**

LAFAYETTE, (La.) — PASA will present an exclusive performance of Ballet Memphis at the Heymann Performing Arts Center, Thursday, February 2, at 7:30 p.m. as the sixth installment of the 2011-2012 Main Stage Season. The program will feature works by noted choreographers, Robert Battle, Jane Comfort, Trey McIntyre and Jill Adams, select pieces set to the southern-influenced music of Roy Orbison, Jeff Buckley and Kirk Whalum.

Ballet Memphis, founded twenty-five years ago by Dorthy Gunther Pugh, is recognized as a leader among the country's outstanding regional ballet companies and has been "a national treasure" by the Ford Foundation. Ranging from contemporary works to reinterpretations of the classics, the company has performed in cities nationwide, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. and the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Massachusetts.

One of the highlights of the evening's program is an exclusive performance of *Takademe*—a solo choreographed by Alvin Ailey Artistic Director, Robert Battle. Outside Alvin Ailey, Ballet Memphis is the only company having been granted the right to perform Battle's piece. In this percussive, fast-paced work, the complex, tightly woven rhythms of Indian Kathak dance are deconstructed and abstracted. Clear shapes and propulsive jumps mimic the vocalized rhythmic syllables of the jazz score by Sheila Chandra.

The evening's unique collection of works will also include: Trey McIntyre's *In Dreams*, presents a somewhat dark and always passionate journey through some of Roy Orbison's most popular songs and honors Memphis' musical heritage. McIntyre's work was performed at the Kennedy Center as part of *Ballet Across America* last summer, and caught the eye of both the *Washington Post* and *New York Times*. Jane Comfort describes *S'epanouir*, the NDP-commissioned, collaboration with Grammy Award-winning saxophonist, Kirk Whalum, as "a momentum-building, soul-inspiring piece about a woman in the depths of emotional and spiritual crisis being lifted to a joyous transformation from those in her community." Julia Adams' aquatic-inspired *Dew Point* completes the array of southern sounds with Jeff Buckley's cover of the Leonard

Cohen's "Hallelujah." Buckley was living in Memphis when he drowned in the Wolf River Harbor, offering Adam an expressive opportunity to respond to the (then recent) flooding.

Associated community outreach includes a pilates workshop, hosted by Ballet Memphis co-sponsor, City Club, February 1 at 6:30PM. Space is limited and registration is \$10. Those wishing to participate are asked to call 337-237-2787 ex. 201 for more information. Local choreographer, Paige Krause, will lead a pre-performance *Creative Conversation* at 6:30PM, February 2 within the Heymann Center's Mezzanine.

Tickets start at \$28 with promotional rates up to 50% available to UL students and faculty, along with subscribers having received a promotional code via email. Those interested in receiving updates and promotional rates are encouraged to visit [pasaonline.org](http://pasaonline.org) and sign-up for PASA's mailing list.

Additional sponsors include Wingate by Wyndham, PASA's *Official hotel of the 2011-2012 Main Stage Series*, offering visiting patrons a special rate of \$69.99/night, and Café Vermilionville, offering a unique tasting of any 3 appetizers and two glasses of wine for \$50. Ballet Memphis was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project.

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Founded in 1988, the Performing Arts Society of Acadiana is a non-profit organization that presents live entertainment at the Heymann Performing Arts Center and other local venues, creates in-school arts activities, and offers daytime performances for students and initiates outreach programs such as PASA PLUS and Play It Again, Lafayette. PASA presents annual performances of opera, dance, drama and a variety of musical acts.