

ATLANTA BALLET

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A Saucier Cinderella: Slip This Version on for Size

Premiere of John McFall's new adaptation of the Fairytale Classic

ATLANTA – (January 11, 2010) A classic fairy tale is jazzed up and captivatingly recast in Atlanta Ballet's presentation of *Cinderella*, February 4-14 at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.

The sweet and demure Cinderella we grew up with brings a more vivacious side to the ball in artistic director John McFall's adaptation of the timeless classic. Set to Russian composer Prokofiev's melodious score and replete with the pumpkin coach, team of mice-horses, glass slipper, and the ugly and jealous stepsisters (played by men), the production offers wonder and enchantment for the kids and humor and romance for the adults.

Despite having performed Ben Stevenson's version of *Cinderella* during the 2004-2005 season, McFall promises an entirely different, but equally magical and whimsical production.

"Although we retained much of what we love of Cinderella's story, I wanted to give audiences more depth, color and drama," said McFall. "Cinderella doesn't have to just speak to the child in your family, but there's a part of her story that touches us all."

Intriguingly, McFall's version opens up at Cinderella's mother's funeral and begins with loss and tragedy.

"Cinderella's journey and the range of emotions she experiences are central to the story, not just the promise of a happy ending," said McFall. "I wanted to make her human, more relatable as the audience experiences her evolution before their eyes. In the spirit of women today, she exerts her independence and we know no matter what, she has become a strong young woman and will make her way."

Great attention has also been given to jazzing up the special effects and costumes to add an element of excitement and animation. This performance will also feature students from the Ballet's Centre for Dance Education. Joining the students will be McFall's daughter Stella Blue, who'll be making her big stage debut.

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Cinderella is the third installment of Atlanta Ballet's 80th anniversary season and the second performance of the season featuring choreography by McFall, who is also celebrating his 15th season with the company.

Cinderella runs February 4 through 14 for eight performances at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre and will feature live music by the Atlanta Ballet Orchestra. Tickets start as low as \$20. For tickets, call 800-982-2787 or stop by the Cobb Energy Centre box office. To purchase tickets online, visit www.atlantaballet.com or www.ticketmaster.com.

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About Atlanta Ballet

Founded in 1929, Atlanta Ballet is the longest continuously-operating ballet company in the United States. Atlanta Ballet's eclectic repertoire spans ballet history, highlighted by beloved classics and inventive originals.

Among Atlanta Ballet's proud and unique 80-year history are its three Artistic Directors, Miss Dorothy Alexander, whose vision brought dance to the South; Robert Barnett, who turned Atlanta Ballet into a professional company; and currently, John McFall. Under McFall's leadership Atlanta Ballet continues its commitment to share and educate audiences on the empowering joy of dance.

Atlanta Ballet opened the Centre for Dance Education in 1996 and is dedicated to nurturing young dancers while providing an outlet for adults to express their creativity. With diverse class offerings and student population, the Centre serves over 150,000 people in metro Atlanta each year. Atlanta Ballet's roots remain firmly grounded in the Atlanta community and continue to play a vital role in the city's cultural growth and revitalization.