

# Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AMERICA'S PREMIER DANCE COMPANY  
THE JOFFREY BALLET**  
**IN ITS DEBUT PERFORMANCE AT THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR  
THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!**

**Sanford and Dolores Ziff Dance Series  
2009-2010 John S. and James L. Knight Masterworks Season**

**Performing a Program of Acclaimed Works,  
Including Their Recent Smash Hit,  
*Age of Innocence*, Choreographed by Edwaard Liang,  
with Score by Celebrated Composers Philip Glass and Thomas Newman**

***Age of Innocence is "a newly minted masterpiece!"***  
**-- *Chicago Sun Times***

**Friday, March 26, 2010 at 8 p.m.  
Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 8 p.m.  
Tickets \$25 to \$120**

**Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House**

**MIAMI, FL March 1, 2010** – Long renowned as a transformational force in American dance, the venerable **JOFFREY BALLET** makes its debut at the Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House of the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County on Friday, March 26, 2010 at 8:00 p.m., followed by a second performance on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. The Joffrey Ballet appears at the Adrienne Arsht Center as part of the Sanford and Dolores Ziff Dance Series, 2009-2010 John S. and James L. Knight Masterworks Season.

“The Joffrey Ballet has been one of this country’s most glorious institutions for more than 50 years,” said M. John Richard, President and CEO of the Adrienne Arsht Center. “This engagement continues our own new tradition of presenting the very best dance from around the world in the Sanford and Dolores Ziff Dance Series. In many ways, The Joffrey Ballet is the quintessential American dance company, with exquisite technique and a soaring spirit of adventure that is sure to delight our South Florida audience.”

The program will feature four acclaimed works that capture the grace, beauty, and athleticism of the world-renowned ballet company. The Joffrey will introduce Miami to one of its recent major hits, *Age of Innocence*, an original work with a mesmerizing score by influential 20<sup>th</sup> century composer, Philip Glass, and noted Hollywood film score composer, Thomas Newman, and choreographed for the Joffrey by a brilliant new voice in American dance, Edwaard Liang. In creating *Age of Innocence*, Liang was inspired by the novels of Jane Austen and the women of her era who demonstrated significant grace and strength of spirit in the face of societal repression. While the ballet’s title recalls Edith Wharton, its real subtext springs from the works of Austen. A former New York City Ballet soloist, Edwaard Liang has been named by *Dance Magazine* as among the “Top 25 to Watch” in ballet choreography.

The program will also include *Confetti*, a highly spirited and technically challenging tour de force choreographed by Joffrey Ballet co-founder Gerald Arpino, with music by Gioacchino Rossini; the lyrical *Valses Poeticos*, a series of solos and duets about love, choreographed by veteran San Francisco Ballet Artistic Director Helgi Tomasson, with music by Enrique Granados; and *Aria*, choreographed by San Francisco Ballet Principal Character Dancer and Choreographer Val Caniparoli, with music by George Frederic Handel.

**The Joffrey Ballet** has been hailed as “America’s Ballet Company of Firsts,” having notched an astonishing number of firsts, including the first dance company to perform at the White House, the first American dance company to visit Russia; the first to commission a Rock ‘n’ Roll ballet; and the first and only dance company to appear on the cover of *Time* magazine.

The Joffrey was founded in 1956 by visionary teacher Robert Joffrey and Gerald Arpino as a uniquely American company of dancers for whom they choreographed original and relevant ballets, commissioned works from the finest emerging choreographers (giving many their first national exposure), and meticulously reconstructed some of the early masterworks of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. For more than 50 years, The Joffrey Ballet’s commitment to taking world-class, artistically vibrant work to a broad and varied audience has created a solid foundation that continues to support the company’s unprecedented capacity for achieving important “firsts.” Today, the company, which has been hugely successful in its former residencies in New York and Los Angeles, lives permanently in a brilliant new facility, Joffrey Tower, in the heart of America,

Chicago. It continues to thrive under its internationally renowned Artistic Director Ashley C. Wheater, who was recruited as a dancer in 1985 by Joffrey and Arpino before returning to lead the company in 2007, after a heralded tenure at the San Francisco Ballet. The company's commitment to accessibility is met through the most extensive touring schedule of any dance company in history, an innovative and highly effective education program, and collaborations with myriad other visual and performing arts organizations.

The Joffrey Ballet's engagement at the Adrienne Arsht Center is generously sponsored by Gala and Stanley Cohen. WLRN 91.3 and WLRN TV Channel 17 are media sponsors of the Sanford and Dolores Ziff Dance Series.

### **CALENDAR LISTING**

Adrienne Arsht Center presents

**John S. and James L. Knight Masterworks Season  
Sanford And Dolores Ziff Dance Series**

#### **THE JOFFREY BALLE**

"Swift, sinuous choreography and the superb ensemble of youthful dancers" (*The Washington Post*) are the hallmarks of The Joffrey Ballet. The company has long been known as a transformational force in American dance, having notched an astonishing number of "firsts": the first dance company to perform at the White House; first to appear on television; first American company to visit Russia; first classical dance company to go multi-media; first to commission a Rock 'n' Roll ballet; and the first and only dance company to appear on the cover of *Time* magazine.

#### *Confetti*

Choreography by Gerald Arpino  
Music by Gioacchino Rossini

#### *Valses Poeticos*

Choreography by Helgi Tomasson  
Music by Enrique Granados

#### *Aria*

Choreography by Val Caniparoli  
Music by George Frederic Handel

#### *Age of Innocence*

Choreography by Edwaard Liang  
Music by Philip Glass and Thomas Newman

**Friday, March 26, 2010 at 8 p.m.  
Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 8 p.m.  
Ziff Ballet Opera House  
Adrienne Arsht Center  
1300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33132**

**Tickets: \$25-\$120**

**For tickets, visit [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org) or call the Box Office at (305) 949-6722.**

*Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, Miami-*

*Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, and Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council. Education and Outreach is funded in part by The Children's Trust. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from private contributions to the Adrienne Arsht Center Foundation, Inc. through its Visionary Society membership program and its Encore Circle major gifts program; American Express Company; Arison Arts Foundation; Bank of America Charitable Foundation; City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency; Dade Community Foundation; Funding Arts Network; John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Southern Arts Federation, The Cowles Charitable Trust; The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation; the National Endowment for the Arts; and the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council.*

**Editor's Note:**

Related high-resolution photos are available at [www.arshtcenter.org/press](http://www.arshtcenter.org/press) and <http://www.mediafire.com/arshtcenterphotos>.

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**About the Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County:**

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is one of the world's leading performing arts organizations and venues. Made possible by Miami-Dade County's largest ever public/private-sector partnership, the Center plays host to three resident companies (Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet and New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy) in addition to numerous South Florida arts organizations that perform in its theaters regularly. Since opening in 2006, the Center has emerged as a leader in offering and presenting world-class programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity, as a catalyst for development in Miami, and as a host of impactful community and educational programs.

Designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, the venue is comprised of the 2,400-seat Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House, the 2,200-seat John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall, the black box Carnival Studio Theater, a restored Carnival Art Deco Tower, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Studio, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Education Center, and the outdoor Parker and Vann Thomson Plaza for the Arts. Events impresario and restaurateur Barton G. Weiss brought his signature style to the Center in 2009 with PRELUDE BY BARTON G, a full-service upscale restaurant open six days a week.

Visit [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org) for more information.