

SA Ballet Theatre announces its 2011 productions

The South African Ballet Theatre (SABT), has announced its productions for 2011, which begin with The Nutcracker at the Sand du Plessis Theatre in Bloemfontein on 9 March, 2011. Other productions will include Romeo and Juliet, and The Sleeping Beauty.

The Nutcracker tells of a young girl, Clara, who receives a magical Nutcracker doll at a Christmas party. Her Uncle Drosselmeyer gives the doll life and takes Clara on a magical journey. The ballet has choreographic revisions by artistic director Iain MacDonald and is entertainment for the whole family. Bookings are now open through PACOFS ticket office on +27 (0)51 447 7772 or www.pacofs.co.za or through Computicket on +27 (0)83 915 8000 or www.computicket.com.

SABT Autumn School

Following its inaugural SABT Winter School in 2010, SABT will once again open its state-of-the-art studios to dancers countrywide for the SABT Autumn School from 28 March to 2 April, 2011. Dancers aged six to 18 are invited to attend and join the stars of SABT for a fun-filled week, including daily ballet class, repertoire classes, contemporary dance classes, national dance classes, stagecraft lessons, pilates classes and more. As a limited number of participants may enroll, interested dancers are encouraged to book early through SABT offices by phoning Mr Moagi on +27 (0)11 877 6898 or email admin@saballettheatre.co.za.

Romeo and Juliet

SABT keeps the spirit of Valentine's Day alive well into May with the full-length, three-act ballet Romeo and Juliet, at the Joburg Theatre in Braamfontein from 27 May to 19 June, 2011. Inspired by Shakespeare's tragic tale, the saga of Romeo and Juliet unfolds against a passionate vendetta between two families in Renaissance Italy. The grand vistas of the city of Verona provide the setting for a blend of magnificent music by Sergei Prokofiev and sweeping choreography to tell an immortal tale of young love. SABT's leading stars perform the roles of the star-crossed lovers in this staging. All performances will have live orchestral accompaniment. Bookings are now open through Computicket on +27 (0)83 915 8000 or www.computicket.com.

The Sleeping Beauty

SABT will return to the Joburg Theatre for a second season from 30 September to 16 October with The Sleeping Beauty, the magical fairytale about a beautiful princess, an evil fairy and a handsome prince whose kiss awakens the princess from her 100-year sleep.

The company will return to the South African State Theatre for a Christmas ballet season from 18 November to 18 December, 2011.

Open days

Open days are an extremely popular chance to catch a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the working life of a professional ballet company. Patrons are invited to visit the SABT studios for an informative and educational morning on Saturday, 19 March and Saturday, 10 September from 10am to 1pm. Bookings may be made through SABT offices by phoning Mr Moagi on +27 (0)11 877 6898 or email admin@saballettheatre.co.za.

For further information, go to www.saballettheatre.co.za.

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