

WINTER 2016

AFPOB
American Friends
of the Paris Opera & Ballet

Dear Friends:

As many of you know, the Paris Opera Ballet has announced that Benjamin Millepied will leave his position of Director of Dance at the end of the 2015/2016 season.

We congratulate him on his innovative work at the Paris Opera and wish him the best for his future endeavor. He will remain a trustee of AFPOB and create two new pieces for the Paris Opera Ballet during the next season.

Mr. Millepied will be succeeded by Aurélie Dupont, the legendary Ballet Etoile, who recently retired from the stage after a lifelong career with the company. Ms. Dupont spent two years of her childhood in the United States and has been a regular visitor ever since. We look forward to officially welcoming her and introducing her to you.

I would like to personally thank all of you for your tremendous support in 2015 and cannot wait to share new and exciting challenges with you in 2016 as we continue to build exceptional memories together.

*With warm wishes-
Olivia Flatto, Chairman*



Olivia Flatto with Her Excellence Jane Hartley in Paris, September 2015 during AFPOB patrons' trip



Stephane Lissner, Aurélie Dupont, Benjamin Millepied

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Patrons Trip to Paris – Ballet Season Opening Gala

On September 24, 2015, ballet patrons and celebrities from all over the world gathered in Paris for the most glamorous event of the year: the gala opening night of Benjamin Millepied's first season at the Paris Opera Ballet, co-chaired by Olivia Flatto, Karine Journo, Pamela Joyner, Ulla Parker and Sutton Stracke, and sponsored by Dior and de Grisogono.

After a reception earlier in the day at the Residence of the Ambassador of the United States to France, Her Excellence Jane Hartley, AFPOB's patrons gained special access to the gala, featuring a new creation by Benjamin Millepied, George Balanchine's "Theme and Variations", and the

always thrilling *Grand Defilé*. The performance was followed by an exquisite dinner prepared by four *Chefs Etoilés* and an epic after-party.

The 3-day escape also offered privileged experiences such as a master class with Benjamin Millepied, a private dinner and performance with Nico Muhly, a lunch with Maestro Phillippe Jordan, a guided discovery of new *Philharmonie de Paris*, a visit of the School of Dance with its director Elisabeth Platel and a beautiful dinner at the Villa Montmorency hosted and Paris Opera Ballet *Coryphée* Alexandra Cardinale and Dominique Desseigne.



Ulla Parker-Cyril Karaoglan Alexis Mabille – Sutton Stracke
Pamela Joyner – Olivia Flatto



Serena Lese - Flavia Gale
Stephanie French – Helen Marx



Donna Corbat Noreen Buckfire Hal Witt
Karine Journo Judith Trunsky Laure Vienot



Steven Tacopino Judith Hoffman Lee Radziwill
Andrew Martin-Weber Christina Lyon Benjamin Millepied



Lisa Bayot – Pia Bayot Corlette
Helen Little – Marina Couloucoundis



Olivia Flatto Dina DeLuca Peggy and Ralph Brown
J.C. Agid Marianne Rash Rowe

Summer Intensive 2015 at the Paris Opera Ballet School

The “Summer School” at the Paris Opera Ballet School was created in 2013 on the occasion of its 300th anniversary. The program not only allows for hundreds of children to be exposed to, and benefit from, the technique of the Paris Opera Ballet, but is also instrumental in the worldwide exposure it brings to the *Opera National de Paris*.

From the beginning, the American Friends of the Paris Opera & Ballet collaborated with the School to

create a scholarship program for American students. Based on the incredible testimonies collected from the recipients and the positive comments from the field, we quickly decided to establish these scholarships as one of AFPOB’s permanent programs.

In 2015, 273 students attended, including 169 foreigners (29 American) and four scholarships were awarded.

*“This past summer in Paris was the most amazing and challenging time for me as a ballet dancer. The classes were **demanding and inspiring**. The high skill level of the students and teachers **pushed my limits as a dancer.**”*

Jackson Bradshaw (18)
Colburn Dance Academy - Los Angeles

*“Every day I was learning something new and always finding ways to improve my technique. Classes would be challenging, yet fun and at the end of every class, I would be sweating with my muscles tired and sore but know how much I have learned. **In every class I would grow as a dancer physically and mentally.**”*

Kyra Singh (14)
The Art of Classical Ballet - Florida

“Thanks to the summer program of POB, I came to the attention of San Francisco Ballet and was given a spot in their trainee program.”

“Other schools require jazz shoes and say in their brochures that they will teach other styles, but really they would be all ballet. At POB, you had many classes with different styles and I enjoyed and learned much from that exposure.”

Larkin Miller (18)
Studio Company / ABT – New York

*“The Paris Opera Ballet was one of my best experiences ever! I really enjoyed **learning the difference in technique that Paris has compared to the Balanchine method.**”*

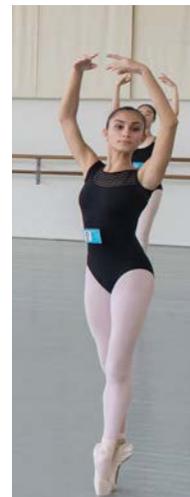
Pierson Hall (12)
School of American Ballet – New York



Jackson Bradshaw



Larkin Miller



Kyra Singh



Pierson Hall

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Save the Dates

New York – April 21, 2016

Gala dinner with Stephane Lissner,
Director of the Opera National de Paris
and Dimitri Chamblas,
Artistic Director of “La 3eme Scène”



La *3eme Scene*, launched in September 2015 by the *Opera National de Paris*, is an ambitious project offering a new perspective on the performing arts, proposing groundbreaking creations from filmmakers, visual artists, writers, choreographers, and musicians. Poetic and daring at the same time, *3eme Scene* is an unmatched platform.

On April 21, 2016, AFPOB has invited Stephane Lissner, Director of the Opera National de Paris, and Dimitri Chamblas, Artistic Director of *3eme Scene*, to present the platform in a unique immersive approach, followed by a beautiful seated dinner.

Paris - September 2-5, 2016

Patrons Trip in support of
American Ballet Theatre’s visit
to the Paris Opera



For the first time in 25 years, American Ballet Theatre is returning to the home of the Paris Opera Ballet: On September 2, 2016, ABT will open the 2016/2017 season at the Paris Opera with “Sleeping Beauty”, the highly praised production choreographed by Alexei Ratmansky.

For this very special occasion, the American Friends of the Paris Opera & Ballet will organize a trip that will ensure patrons special access to the opening night of this production, and other exceptional activities such as backstage tour of the *Palais Garnier*, master classes and rehearsals with both ABT and the Paris Opera Ballet, talks with the artists and the dancers, private tours of temporary exhibits and Parisian cultural landmarks, as well as private and official receptions.

Olivia Flatto
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Marina Couloucoundis
Serena Lese
Laura Zeckendorf
Vice-Chairmen

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Randall Bourscheidt
Anthony P. Coles
Mary Sharp Cronson*
Michel David Weil*
Flavia Gale
James de Givenchy
Claude Janssen
Kinga Lampert
Gretchen Leach
Almudena Legorreta
Jacques Leviant

Benjamin Millepied
Yurie Pascarella
Hugues de Pins
Lee Radziwill
Sana H. Sabbagh
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