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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE FIRST BAY AREA VISIT  
IN 50 YEARS OF THE ROYAL DANISH BALLET  
IN TWO DISTINCT PROGRAMS, TUESDAY–SATURDAY,  
MAY 31–JUNE 4, AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**Lobby Talk: Dance specialist Kathryn Roszak and a special guest will discuss the  
Royal Danish Ballet’s history and current repertoire on Saturday, June 4,  
at 5:00 p.m. on Zellerbach Hall Mezzanine**

**BERKELEY, April 28, 2011**—The third-oldest ballet company in the world, the **Royal Danish Ballet** comes to Cal Performances and the Bay Area for the first time in more than 50 years, **Tuesday–Saturday, May 31–June 4, at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall.** The troupe has its roots in the Bournonville style but maintains a wide repertoire of works by acclaimed modern Nordic choreographers. The company, under the leadership of **Nikolaj Hübb**, brings two distinct programs: Program A features Bournonville’s timeless Romantic masterpiece *La Sylphide* (1836) along with **Flemming Flindt’s** *The Lesson* (1963). Program B consists of adventurous works by four modern Nordic choreographers and includes *Bournonville Variations* (2010) by **Hans Beck**, *Lost on Slow* (2008) by Jorma Elo, *Alumnus* (2011) by **Johan Kobborg** and *Earth* (2005) by **Jorma Uotinen.**

A Lobby Talk will be given on **Saturday, June 4, at 5:00 p.m.** by Bay Area choreographer and teacher **Kathryn Roszak** and a special guest. This event is free and open to the public and takes place on the Zellerbach Hall mezzanine; it is necessary to purchase a ticket, however, to attend the corresponding performance.

**THE PROGRAM**

Program A, Tuesday & Wednesday, May 31 & June 1, at 8:00 p.m. opens with *The Lesson* (1963), choreographed by Flemming Flindt and set to music by George Delerue. Based on Ionesco’s absurdist play *La Leçon*, Flindt’s ballet is a “blindingly strong drama” (*Berlingske Tidende*) that tells the story of an insane dance instructor who kills his pupils. *La Sylphide* (1836) follows, choreographed by August Bournonville and set to music by Herman Severin Løvenskiold. *La Sylphide* is Bournonville’s only tragic ballet and is one of “the most iconic of  
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Danish ballets” (*The Guardian*). It tells a story about a young Scotsman who abandons his bride on his wedding day to pursue an ethereal Sylph and explores the Romantic notion that humans are trapped in the duality between a life of safety and reality and the dream of a different, more tempting and exciting life. It is the only ballet Bournonville created that does not resolve with good vanquishing evil.

Program B: Friday & Saturday, June 3 & 4, at 8:00 p.m. consists of four works and opens with *Bournonville Variations* (2010) arranged by Thomas Lund and Nikolaj Hübbe based on the daily Bournonville class work. *Lost on Slow* (2008) follows with choreography by Jorma Elo and is set to music by Vivaldi. The dance is a dialogue among three women and three men and incorporates mime, modern dance and human puppetry. *Alumnus* (2011) is a new work choreographed by world-famous Danish ballet dancer Johan Kobborg for the Royal Danish Ballet, with which he performed for 11 years. *Earth* (2005), which concludes the program, was choreographed by Jorma Uotinen and is set to music by Metallica and Apocalyptica. This masculine tour-de-force creation showcases 14 male dancers and delivers a primal punch that is “masculine, raw and beautiful to watch” (*Jyllandsposten*).

## ROYAL DANISH BALLETT

Founded in 1748, the **Royal Danish Ballet** is one of the world’s oldest ballet companies. Its distinct style, recognizable by fast and intricate footwork contrasted by softly rounded arms and the direction of head and torso, comes from August Bournonville, one of the most influential directors of the company. During his tenure as artistic director from 1830 to 1877, Bournonville wrote almost 50 “enchanted, light and quick and buoyant” (*The Independent*, London) ballets, of which about a dozen are still part of the company’s repertoire. Though rooted in the French style he was taught in, Bournonville defined Danish national romanticism with works such as *La Sylphide* (1836), *Napoli* (1842), *Le Conservatoire* (1849), *The Kermesse in Bruges* (1851) and *A Folk Tale* (1854). After his death, his successor Hans Beck codified Bournonville’s teachings into a series of daily routines, which have been used ever since to teach the Bournonville style to later generations of dancers.

The company began to look toward outside influences in the 1930s under the direction of Harald Lander, who brought in the Russian pedagogue Vera Volkova to revise and modernize its

training techniques, producing some of the world's finest male dancers, including Erik Bruhn, Flemming Flindt, Peter Martins, Johan Kobborg and Nikolaj Hübbe. Lander also added his own ballets to the repertoire, of which *Etudes* (1948) became the company's first international hit. In 1936, Sir Frederick Ashton created the first Western production of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* on the Royal Danish Ballet. Following its first North American tour in 1956, the company firmly established itself as one of the great ballet companies of the world. With Flemming Flindt at the helm from 1966–1978, its repertoire continued to expand, including one of the first pairings of ballet and rock music, Flindt's *Triumph of Death* (1973), to music by Savage Rose.

The Bournonville repertoire is still in the company today, but like many major dance companies the Royal Danish Ballet maintains a broad repertoire, dancing everything from the full-length classics of Bournonville and Petipa to contemporary classics by Neumeier and Cranko, from the neoclassical abstract works of Balanchine to Kylián and Forsythe. Long-time principle dancer Nikolaj Hübb assumed leadership of the company in 2008.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for the **Royal Danish Ballet, Tuesday–Saturday, May 31–June 4, at 8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$38.00, \$52.00, \$68.00, \$85.00** and **\$100.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5.00 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org).

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty, staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities are limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members.

Information is available at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances' 2010/11 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Tuesday & Wednesday, May 31 & June 1, at 8:00 p.m. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
**Friday & Saturday, June 3 & 4, at 8:00 p.m. Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley**

*Dance*

**The Royal Danish Ballet**

Program A: Tuesday & Wednesday, May 31 & June 1, at 8:00 p.m.

*The Lesson* (1963): music by George Delerue; choreography by Flemming Flindt

*La Sylphide* (1836): music by Herman Severin Løvenskiold; choreography by August Bournonville

Program B: Friday & Saturday, June 3 & 4, at 8:00 p.m.

*Bournonville Variations* (2010): set to music by Martin Åkerwall, from the Bournonville classes; choreography from the Bournonville classes, arranged and staged by Thomas Lund and Nikolaj Hübbe

*Lost on Slow* (2008): music by Antonio Vivaldi; choreography by Jorma Elo

*Alumnus* (2011): music by H. Wieniawski-Kreisler, Hans Christian Lumbye; choreography by Dane Johan Kobborg

*Earth* (2005): music by Metallica and Apocalyptica; choreography by Jorma Uotinen

**Tickets:** \$38.00, \$52.00, \$68.00, \$85.00 and \$100.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

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**Saturday, June 4, at 5:00 p.m.**

**LOBBY TALK**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Lobby Talks are a series of one-hour talks by genre specialists and artists on the Zellerbach Hall Lobby Mezzanine. Bay Area choreographer and teacher **Kathryn Roszak** and a special guest will

discuss the **Royal Danish Ballet**'s history and current repertory. While Lobby Talks are free and open to the public, tickets must be purchased for entrance to the associated concerts.

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