



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Milwaukee Ballet Stages World-Famous Dracula Halloween Weekend** **- The 'Ballet with Bite' Celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its American Premiere, Oct. 25-28 -**

MILWAUKEE – Oct. 19, 2018 – Milwaukee Ballet opens their 2018-19 season with Michael Pink’s world-renowned *Dracula*, just in time for Halloween. The production will run Oct. 25-28, 2018 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

Seen by more than one million people worldwide, Pink’s signature show has been presented in Australia, Canada, England, Japan, New Zealand Norway and several cities in the United States. This marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the production’s American premiere at Atlanta Ballet in 1998.

“*Dracula* has developed somewhat of a cult following – once people see it, they’re hooked,” said Artistic Director Michael Pink. “I’m incredibly proud of how this production reaches beyond the ballet world and draws in theater-goers, orchestra lovers and people who simply enjoy a good story. I deeply believe our artform can, and must, evolve with our audience and engage the next generation of dancers and admirers. *Dracula* has achieved this since its creation.”

*Dracula* was created in 1996 by Michael Pink in collaboration with England’s Northern Ballet Theatre Artistic Director Christopher Gable (1940-1998). Widely regarded as a production far ahead of its time, the production has maintained its appeal as a cutting-edge and theatrical presentation of the unique style of “dance drama” that made Michael Pink famous.

“I’m focused on creating rich, full stories through dance. Classical ballet showcases a clearly defined physical form, while acting is about discovering the motivation behind a character’s actions. *Dracula* merges the two into a well-constructed story leaving the audience hungry for more.”

The monstrous production combines dramatic dance with gothic scenery and period costumes from Tony Award winner, Lez Brotherston and a revamped lighting design from Emmy Award winner, David Grill.

For the first time ever, the Florentine Opera's 2018-19 Studio Artists and Chorus join Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra to perform Philip Feeney's chilling score under Associate Conductor, Pasquale Laurino.

*Dracula* is proudly supported by 88Nine Radio Milwaukee and Milwaukee Film.

### **The Story**

*Dracula* is based on Bram Stoker's 1897 novel detailing London businessman Jonathan Harker's journey to Transylvania to meet Count Dracula, the perfect picture of courtly elegance and menacing force. Dracula, a vampire surviving on the blood of the living, casts spells over Jonathan and his friends, who must sacrifice everything to stop him.

### **Reviews for *Dracula***

*"Devilish dancing, a spine-tingling score...and spectacular stage effects."*

- Scoop, New Zealand

*"A guilty gothic pleasure...incredibly creative, always sexy."*

- Atlanta Journal-Constitution

*"Ballet's answer to *The Rocky Horror Show*."*

- The Sunday Telegraph, London

*"A heavily illustrated presentation with all of the dramatic elements playing out in the language of dance."*

- OnMilwaukee.com

### **Schedule and Ticket Information**

Michael Pink's *Dracula* runs Oct. 25-28, 2018 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N Water Street in Milwaukee, Wis. The schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, Oct. 25, 2018 at 7:30pm
- Friday, Oct. 26, 2018 at 11:00am (Student Matinee)
- Friday, Oct. 26, 2018 at 7:30pm
- Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018 at 2:00pm
- Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018 at 7:30pm
- Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018 at 2:00pm

Tickets for *Dracula* range from \$40-\$115 and are available online at [milwaukeeballet.org](http://milwaukeeballet.org) or through Milwaukee Ballet's box office at (414) 902-2103.

Due to popularity, audiences are encouraged to purchase tickets early to ensure availability.

### **Luz San Miguel's Retirement**

Leading Artist, Luz San Miguel, will take her final bow on Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018 following her performance as Lucy, the same role she danced for her Milwaukee Ballet debut in 2005; a fitting tribute to her 13-year outstanding career.

San Miguel has danced as a leading lady in all Michael Pink's ballets including Juliet (*Romeo & Juliet*), Clara and Marie (*The Nutcracker*), Odile and Odette (*Swan Lake*), Kitri and Matador Lady (*Don Quixote*) and Swanhilda (*Coppélia*), and the title roles in *Cinderella*, *Esmeralda*, *Giselle* and *La Sylphide*. Pink also created the roles of Mimi (*La Bohème*), Tinker Bell (*Peter Pan*) and Snow White (*Mirror Mirror*) on her for his world premieres in Milwaukee.

She has also danced in works by choreographers such as George Balanchine, Nacho Duato, Anthony Tudor, Paul Taylor, Lila York and Jerome Robbins.

### **Principal Cast**

	<b>Evening Performances</b>	<b>Matinee Performances</b>
Dracula	Davit Hovhannisyan	Patrick Howell
Harker	Randy Crespo	Garrett Glassman
Lucy	Luz San Miguel	Marize Fumero
Mina	Nicole Teague-Howell	Annia Hidalgo
Van Helsing	Patrick Howell	Davit Hovhannisyan
Renfield	Garrett Glassman	Barry Molina
Quincy	Parker Brasser-Vos	Isaac Sharratt
Arthur	Timothy O'Donnell	Ransom Wilkes-Davis

### **Student Matinee**

Milwaukee Ballet offers a performance for student groups Friday, Oct. 26, 2018 at 11:00am. Tickets range from \$8-\$15. Study guides conformed to Common Core State Standards will be provided before the performance.

Schools can also reserve a pre-performance Ballet Prep Workshop that includes a presentation information about pointe shoes, partnering, choreography and sets. This on-site workshop costs \$75 and is ideal for grades Pre-K through 12. The workshop must be scheduled no later than one week prior to the show date.

For more information and to reserve your tickets, contact Milwaukee Ballet's Community Engagement Department at (414) 902-2126.

### ***Dracula* at Gallery Night**

Friday, October 19 | 6:00-8:00pm  
Elements East | 191 N Broadway, Milwaukee

Mingle with Dracula and his vampire brides at Elements East for an evening of art, inspiration, and festive fright. Leading Artist Davit Hovhannisyan, cast as the title character, will be

accompanied by his fellow Milwaukee Ballet dancers in costume as they draw you in with a “taste” of the production with a glass of wine. Enter to win two tickets to the production or a \$500 gift card to Elements East.

This great event is hosted by the Asian-inspired boutique store, Elements East, in the Third Ward during Gallery Night.

Free and open to the public.

### **The 2018-19 Season**

*Dracula* opens Milwaukee Ballet’s 2018-19 season, which also includes *The Nutcracker* presented by We Energies (Dec. 8-26, 2018), *Genesis 2019* (Feb. 14-17, 2019), *Lambarena* (April 4-7, 2019) and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (May 30-June 2019). The 2018-19 season is presented by Donna and Donald Baumgartner. More information can be found at [milwaukeeballet.org](http://milwaukeeballet.org).

### **About Milwaukee Ballet**

Milwaukee Ballet was founded in 1970. Led by Artistic Director Michael Pink, Milwaukee Ballet’s mission is to create a rich and diverse community through its inspiring dance performance, education and outreach. Milwaukee Ballet hosts an international company of dancers and is one of the few companies in the nation to maintain its own orchestra. Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy is the only professional dance school in the Midwest accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance. Milwaukee Ballet’s award-winning Community Engagement department serves nearly 40,000 people in Southeastern Wisconsin each year through original, interactive programs. Milwaukee Ballet celebrates its 50th Anniversary next year in the 2019-20 season.

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*Note to Editors: Interviews with Milwaukee Ballet Artistic Director Michael Pink and key artists, biographies and high-resolution images are available upon request.*