



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing Fiftieth Anniversary Season With Returning Favorites and Brand New Debuts

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

*Expanded family series with **STOMP**, **Annie**, **Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood** and more*

*Speakers **David Sedaris** and **Neil Gaiman***

*Original commissioned work from **Jessica Lang Dance***

*Houston debut of 13-year-old jazz prodigy **Joey Alexander***

HOUSTON (4/3/2016) – Celebrating 50 years of “bringing the world’s best to Houston,” **Society for the Performing Arts** has announced its 2016-2017 season, full of both returning favorites and all-new Houston debuts.

“Our goal every season is to bring a wide selection of the world’s best performing artists to the stages of Houston, and this 50th anniversary season continues that tradition,” June Christensen, SPA’s CEO and President, said. “From such perennial Houston favorites as **STOMP** and **David Sedaris** to performances like **Joey Alexander** and the **Underwater Bubble Show** that are making their Houston debuts, the 2016-2017 season for SPA offers something for fans of nearly every performing art form.”

The 2016-2017 season features an expanded lineup of family programming with two series: the Family Fun Jr. Series, geared towards younger kids ages 4-10, and the Family Fun Series, with shows for the entire family. Things kick off with **Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood LIVE** (October 9th, 2016), featuring Daniel Tiger and his friends from the hit PBS television series in an interactive musical adventure through the vibrant world of the iconic Neighborhood of Make-Believe. Centered around another PBS show, **Odd Squad LIVE**, will also make its Houston debut (January 21st, 2017), with Kid Agents Otto and Olive. Rounding out this season’s Family Fun Jr. Series will

be the **Underwater Bubble Show** (October 28th, 2016), a cutting-edge, immersive show straight from Latvia. In addition, the Family Fun Series will include shows for the entire family, leading off with **Cirque Dreams HOLIDAZE** (November 18th-20th, 2016), a holiday extravaganza that blends circus performers with Broadway musical staging. Other offerings include the legendary **STOMP** (February 10th-12th), **Annie the Musical** (April 8th-9th), and a one-of-a-kind brand new tour from Australia, **Circus 1903** (June 9th -11th), that celebrates the golden age of the circus with a global cast of performers and stunning animal puppets from Significant Objects.

SPA has long been an advocate for dance, bringing companies from across the globe to Houston. The 50th Anniversary Season continues that practice, with a Dance Series that boasts performances from **David Parsons Dance** (September 23rd, 2016), **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo** (March 24th, 2017), **Pilobolus** and their latest work *Shadowlands* (January 20th, 2017) and **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet** (April 21st, 2017). The series will conclude with a performance from **Jessica Lang Dance** (May 20th, 2017), including a brand-new piece, *Tesseracts of Time*, commissioned in part by Society for the Performing Arts that is deemed a “dance for architecture,” a collaboration with architect Steven Holl, who is behind many legendary projects including the current expansion of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

The 2016-2017 Season also features a stunning Music Series, starting with a holiday performance from **The Irish Tenors** (December 7th, 2016). Also included, the Houston debut of 13-year-old jazz prodigy **Joey Alexander** (February 17th, 2017), a dynamic and electrifying performance from **Third Coast Percussion** (March 4th, 2017), and the return of sibling piano masters **The 5 Browns** (May 12th, 2017).

Other highlights of the 50th Anniversary Season include perennial Houston favorite **David Sedaris** (October 22nd, 2016), Brazilian dance company **Balé Folclórico da Bahia** (January 13th, 2017), and award-winning author **Neil Gaiman** (July 8th, 2017). Our annual free show at Miller Outdoor Theatre will showcase French/American electroswing band **Gingkoa** on May 6th, 2017, in a free concert at Miller Outdoor Theatre),

Subscriptions for the 2016-2017 season are on sale now! Renewing subscribers will be seated first; all other orders will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. For more information regarding performance dates, times and details, call 713-227-4772 or visit spahouston.org.

About Society for the Performing Arts

Founded in 1966, Society for the Performing Arts (SPA) is the largest independent non-profit presenting organization in the Southwest. Since its inception, SPA has sponsored more than 1,000 performances of the world’s finest music, dance and theater events, in adherence to the belief that the arts are fundamental to the overall enrichment and quality of life within the community. In addition to presenting artists, SPA seeks to provide a variety of learning experiences for adults and children through master classes, lectures and special student performances, as well as build relationships between the performing arts and other interests within the greater Houston area and throughout the state of Texas.

2016-2017 Season Show Descriptions—

David Parsons Dance

Cullen Theater, Wortham Center

Friday, September 23, 8 pm

Started by the legendary David Parsons in 1985, Parsons Dance is known for its signature style with a fusion of the gesture and movement that make up modern dance, and the discipline and precise execution one expects from a classical company. Parsons Dance continues to pursue its mission to deliver positive, affirming, life-enriching experiences to audiences worldwide.

Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood LIVE!

Jones Hall

Sunday, October 9, 5:30 pm

The legacy of the beloved Mister Rogers lives on with the hit PBS television series, Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood. Catch Daniel Tiger "live," as he and all of his friends are hopping aboard the Trolley to take an interactive musical adventure through the vibrant world of the iconic Neighborhood of Make-Believe.

David Sedaris

Brown Theater, Wortham Center

Saturday, October 22, 8 pm

A perennial favorite, David Sedaris will once again return to Houston. With multiple bestsellers, Sedaris is beloved by audiences for his bizarre, candid takes on real life. David Sedaris will read works both classic and brand new.

Underwater Bubble Show

Cullen Theater, Wortham Center

Friday, October 28, 7:30 pm

Using cutting-edge laser technology, snow cannons, soap bubble tornadoes, theatrical fog, and optical illusions, the Underwater Bubble Show is an interactive performance that appeals to children and adults alike. Straight from Latvia, the special effects and massive LED screens make for a truly immersive "underwater" show.

Cirque Dreams HOLIDAZE

Jones Hall

Friday, November 18th, 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 19th, 2 pm and 7:30 pm

Sunday, November 20th, 2 pm

Cirque Dreams HOLIDAZE lights up the 2016 holiday season with its acclaimed holiday extravaganza. This circus-like holiday stage spectacular features ornaments, costumes and acrobatics that come alive celebrating holiday themes, music and traditions for the entire family. Cirque Dreams HOLIDAZE is the greatest variety show on the planet!

We Three Kings--An Irish Tenors Christmas

Jones Hall

Wednesday, December 7, 8 pm

The Irish Tenors—Finbar Wright, Anthony Kearns, and Ronan Tynan— will bring their signature brand of traditional singing mixed with a little humor and a lot of heart to Jones Hall for a holiday concert like no other with *We Three Kings—An Irish Tenors Christmas*.

Balé Folclórico da Bahia

Jones Hall

Friday, January 13, 2017, 8 pm

The only professional folk dance company of its kind in Brazil, Balé Folclórico da Bahia reflects the best in Bahian folkloric art. The company draws from its African roots, and includes capoeira, samba, and all the excitement and color of the legendary Brazilian celebration of Carnival. This irresistible troupe is beloved for its intense, fiery dancing and unstoppable energy.

Pilobolus

Jones Hall

Friday, January 20, 2017, 8 pm

Pilobolus' latest project, *Shadowland*, is equal parts uproariously comedic and intensely dramatic, creating exotic creatures and beautiful images out of thin air, using only dancers' bodies and their shadows. With a mix of shadow theater, dance, circus, and concert elements, *Shadowland* is a one-of-a-kind show that's been called "an amazing spectacle of inventiveness" (*Le Parisien*).

Odd Squad LIVE!

Jones Hall

Saturday, January 21, 2017, 5:30 pm

Based on the PBS Kids series, Odd Squad LIVE brings Kid Agents Olive and Otto right here to Houston. The Odd Squad follows the extraordinary adventures of two young government agents who use math skills and teamwork to solve unusual cases. Odd Squad is designed to help the junior agents in the audience ages five to eight build STEM skills.

STOMP

Jones Hall

Friday, February 10th, 2017, 7:30 pm

Saturday, February 11th, 2017, 2 pm and 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 12th, 2017, 2 pm and 7 pm

With matchboxes, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, and more filling the stage, STOMP is the inventive and invigorating stage show that's part dance, part concert, part theatrical performance, all blended together in one electrifying rhythm.

Joey Alexander

Cullen Theater, Wortham Center

Friday, February 17th, 2017, 8 pm

Born on the island of Bali, 13-year-old jazz prodigy Joey Alexander is wowing audiences all over the world with his true and distinctive jazz style. Discovered by jazz legend Wynton

Marsalis, Joey has performed at Jazz at the Lincoln Center and the Jazz Foundation of America at the Apollo, as well as winning a 2016 Grammy Award.

Third Coast Percussion

Cullen Theater, Wortham Center

Saturday, March 4th, 2017, 8 pm

Founded in 2005, Third Coast Percussion has played its “sonically spectacular” shows (*Chicago Tribune*) for audiences across the country. Experience the electricity and the raw energy of live percussion when they perform in Houston.

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

Cullen Theater, Wortham Center

Friday, March 24, 2017, 8 pm

In 1974, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo was founded by a group of ballet enthusiasts with a deep respect for the art form, all for the purpose of presenting a playful, entertaining view of traditional, classical ballet. Since then, this hairy-chested all-male troupe has delighted audiences around the world and now they return to Houston for another night of gleefully funny grand ballet.

Annie the Musical

Jones Hall

Saturday, April 8th, 2017, 2 pm and 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 9th, 2017, 1 pm and 6:30 pm

In a brand-new incarnation with a nod towards the original staging, *Annie* includes such unforgettable songs as “It’s a Hard Knock Life,” “Easy Street,” and “Tomorrow.” As one of the most beloved and iconic musicals of all time, *Annie* is the perfect family-friendly show this season.

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

Cullen Theater, Wortham Center

Friday, April 21, 2017, 8 pm

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet shares its bold vision to the world, with top choreographers, a distinctive and groundbreaking repertoire, and virtuoso dancers. Their deep commitment to curating new ballets while also cultivating burgeoning new choreographers has resulted in an adventurous and cutting-edge repertoire.

Ginkgo

Miller Outdoor Theater

Saturday, May 6, 2017

She comes from New York; he lives in Paris. Fighting against all the odds of their geographic destiny, the duo aims to make French songs with a distinctly American vibe and American songs with a French touch, with time periods and inspirations constantly crossing and colliding.

The 5 Browns**Cullen Theater, Wortham Center****Friday, May 12, 2017, 8 pm**

The 5 Browns have toured extensively all over the world, from the Grand National Theater in China to the Alice Tully Hall in New York City. These five siblings have one mission: waking up classical music by introducing it to the widest, largest, most excited audience they can find.

Jessica Lang Dance**Cullen Theater, Wortham Center****Saturday, May 20, 2017, 8 pm**

Jessica Lang Dance enriches and inspires global audiences with immersive performances flush with the beauty of movement and music. Their newest work, *Tesseracts of Time*, merges together the art forms of architecture and dance. This “dance for architecture” was commissioned in part by Society for the Performing Arts and is a collaboration with Steven Holl, the world-renowned architect behind the \$450 million redevelopment of Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Circus 1903**Jones Hall****Friday, June 9th, 2017, 7:30 pm****Saturday, June 10th, 2017, 2 pm and 7:30 pm****Sunday, June 11th, 2017, 2 pm and 7 pm**

Step right up! Step right up! With mesmerizing puppets and special effects to create the animal acts, Circus 1903 features the most amazing, dangerous, and exceptional acts from the four corners of the globe. Be transported to the golden age of the circus, a truly captivating extravaganza that is the perfect night for the entire family.

Neil Gaiman**Brown Theater, Wortham Center****Saturday, July 8th, 2017, 8 pm**

One of the most celebrated writers of our time, with best-selling works as *American Gods*, *Coraline*, *The Graveyard Book*, *Sandman* and others, Neil Gaiman is coming to Houston for one night only. As a self-described “feral child who was raised in libraries,” Neil Gaiman will be great for any lover of books and stories.

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