

# CLEVELAND BALLET

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**CLEVELAND BALLET PREPARES TO CLOSE 2024-2025 SEASON WITH SHAKESPEARE'S EPIC TRAGEDY  
*ROMEO AND JULIET* AT PLAYHOUSE SQUARE**

**CLEVELAND, OH** – Cleveland Ballet's 2024-2025 season will close with *Romeo and Juliet* May 16-17, 2025 at Playhouse Square's Mimi Ohio Theatre. *Romeo and Juliet* is a breathtaking adaptation of William Shakespeare's timeless tale of passion, fate, and tragedy set to Prokofiev's iconic score.

*Romeo and Juliet* features choreography by Carolina Ballet's founding Artistic Director Robert Weiss, whose work was most recently seen by Cleveland audiences for Cleveland Ballet's sold-out double feature of *Dracula* and *The Masque of the Red Death* in October. Carolina Ballet's Ballet Master, Dameon Nagel, will return to set the ballet on Cleveland Ballet's dancers.

Jeff A.R. Jones, Fight Director, Certified Teacher, and Instructor of Theatrical Firearms with the Society of American Fight Directors, will work with Cleveland Ballet's artists in March on elements of the ballet including fencing, swordplay, and fight choreography. Jones has staged fights for theatre, opera, ballet, film, television and web series across the United States, with his fights receiving rave reviews in both *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*. The set design for *Romeo and Juliet* is also by Jones.

"*Romeo and Juliet* is one of the greatest and most dramatic stories told, and dancing to Prokofiev's score brings every emotion to life. I'm looking forward to seeing our dancers take on the challenge of the technical demands and the deep storytelling." Artistic Director Timour Bourtasenkov says, "I expect Cleveland audiences to be moved by the passion that the production will bring to the stage."

To elevate and enrich patron experiences of seeing a live ballet performance, Cleveland Ballet will host artistic discussions with Bourtasenkov. These discussions are free for ticket holders. On Friday evening after the 7:00PM performance, Bourtasenkov will be joined by members of the cast for an *Encore Talk*. Before the performance on Saturday evening, Bourtasenkov and the artistic staff will provide *Before the Curtain* pre-performance insights.

In addition to its regularly scheduled performances, Cleveland Ballet is offering a student matinee and *Pay What You Can* performance opportunity to attend the final dress rehearsal on Friday, May 16 at 10:30 AM.

The three performances in the 2025 season celebrate the extensive contributions of Mr. Cleveland Ballet, Dick Pogue, who along with his late wife, Patricia, have been long-standing patrons instrumental in the growth of Cleveland Ballet.

Tickets for *Romeo and Juliet* are now on sale. To purchase tickets, please visit: [cleveballet.org/romeo-juliet](http://cleveballet.org/romeo-juliet) or call Playhouse Square ticketing at 216.241.6000. Ticket pricing begins at \$30.

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**ABOUT CLEVELAND BALLET:** The exquisite artistry of Cleveland Ballet has been capturing the hearts of patrons in Northeast Ohio and beyond since 2015. Cleveland Ballet is indebted to its legions of supporters who have secured its position as a cultural gem with critical acclaim and continued patronage. Recognized for its commitment to innovation, diversity, and creativity, Cleveland Ballet is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of ballet enthusiasts through the Academy of Cleveland Ballet, its robust community impact programs, and accessible programs such as *Pay What You Can*. Cleveland Ballet is proud to be among the prestigious ranks of a Playhouse Square resident company.

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