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THIRTEEN’S Great Performances Premieres Romeo and Juliet Nationwide Friday, September 11 at 9 p.m. on PBS

Features the current generation of dancers from The Royal Ballet including “Cats” star Francesca Hayward

Synopsis
This film adaptation of Shakespeare’s masterpiece takes legendary Royal Ballet choreographer Kenneth MacMillan’s 1965 audience favorite out of the theater and into the streets of a cinematic Verona, offering a passionate reimagining of this timeless love story. A film by the BalletBoyz, the award-winning team of Michael Nunn and William Trevitt, this romantic classic is vividly recreated on atmospheric studio sets in Budapest, combining inventive cinematography and dynamic choreography. Set to Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev’s original score performed by the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, the film features the internationally acclaimed current generation of stars from The Royal Ballet including Francesca Hayward as Juliet (who recently appeared as Victoria in the feature film “Cats”), William Bracewell as Romeo and Matthew Ball as Tybalt. Great Performances: Romeo and Juliet premieres nationwide Friday, September 11 at 9 p.m. on PBS, pbs.org/gperf and the PBS Video app.

Notable Talent
- William Bracewell, stars as Romeo, first soloist of The Royal Ballet
• Francesca Hayward, stars as Juliet, principal dancer of The Royal Ballet and recently appeared as Victoria in the feature film “Cats”
• Matthew Ball, stars as Tybalt, principal dancer of The Royal Ballet
• Sergei Prokofiev, original score, revered 20th century ballet, opera and film composer
• Michael Nunn and William Trevitt, director and director of photography, Emmy Award-winning artistic directors of BalletBoyz and former dancers of The Royal Ballet
• David Horn, executive producer of *Great Performances*

**Noteworthy Facts**

- The score is a 90-minute abridged version of Sergei Prokofiev’s original score from 1938 and is unique to the film.
- 2016’s *Great Performances: Young Men*, commemorating the centennial of World War I, was also produced by BalletBoyz.

**Short TV Listing**

Experience a film of choreographer Kenneth MacMillan’s ballet with dancers from The Royal Ballet.

**Long TV Listing**

Experience Shakespeare’s classic as a ballet from choreographer Kenneth MacMillan performed by dancers from The Royal Ballet set to a score by Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev and filmed on atmospheric studio sets in Budapest.

**Series Overview**

Throughout its more than 40-year history on PBS, *Great Performances* has provided viewers across the country with an unparalleled showcase of the best in all genres of the performing arts, serving as America’s most prestigious and enduring broadcaster of cultural programming. The series is available for streaming simultaneously on all station-branded PBS platforms, including PBS.org and the PBS Video app, which is available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Chromecast. PBS station members can view episodes via Passport (contact your local PBS station for details). The series is a production of THIRTEEN Productions LLC for WNET.

**Production Credits**

A film by Michael Nunn and William Trevitt, *Great Performances: Romeo and Juliet* is a Footwork Films production for the BBC in association with THIRTEEN Productions LLC for WNET. *Great Performances* is produced by THIRTEEN Productions LLC for WNET. Bill
O’Donnell is series producer and David Horn is executive producer.

**Underwriters**
Major funding for *Great Performances: Romeo and Juliet* is provided by The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Arts Fund, Irene Diamond Fund, Rosalind P. Walter, the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, The Starr Foundation, the Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, the Thea Petschek Iervolino Foundation, Jody and John Arnhold, the Lewis “Sonny” Turner Fund for Dance, Ellen and James S. Marcus, Seton J. Melvin, and The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation.

**Websites:** pbs.org/gperf, facebook.com/GreatPerformances, @GPerfPBS, youtube.com/greatperformancespbs #GreatPerformancesPBS

**About BalletBoyz**
Founded in 2000, BalletBoyz established itself as one of the most original and innovative forces in modern dance: revolutionizing programming formats, commissioning work and collaborating with cutting-edge talents. The company’s chief aim is to challenge, excite and enlighten audiences through its work, bringing together elements from diverse realms of the arts including composers, artists, designers and filmmakers.

The company has won numerous awards and nominations including an Olivier Award, National Dance Awards, an International Emmy and The Golden Prague and Rose d’Or Awards twice. In 2013, BalletBoyz won Best Independent Company in the National Dance Awards, Best Modern Choreography for Russell Maliphant’s Fallen, while Michael Hulls won the 2014 Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance for his work with BalletBoyz. In 2016, the company’s first feature film was broadcast: “Young Men” won The Golden Prague Arts Award (2017) and the Rose d’Or in the Arts Category, rewarding originality, quality and creativity.

**About WNET**
WNET is America’s flagship PBS station: parent company of New York’s THIRTEEN and WLIW21 and operator of NJTV, the statewide public media network in New Jersey. Through its new ALL ARTS multi-platform initiative, its broadcast channels, three cable services (THIRTEEN PBSKids, Create and World) and online streaming sites, WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to more than five million viewers each month. WNET produces and presents a wide range of acclaimed PBS series, including Nature, Great Performances, American Masters, PBS NewsHour Weekend, and the nightly interview program Amanpour and Company. In addition, WNET produces numerous documentaries, children’s programs, and local news and cultural offerings, as well as multi-platform initiatives addressing poverty and climate. Through THIRTEEN Passport and WLIW Passport, station members can stream new and archival THIRTEEN, WLIW and PBS programming anytime, anywhere.

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