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**MILWAUKEE
BALLET**

MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MILWAUKEE BALLET PREMIERES CASANOVA IN THE MIDWEST

- The sensational production will open Milwaukee Ballet's 2024/25 Season from November 1-3 -

Milwaukee, WI – October 8, 2024 – Milwaukee Ballet is primed to open its 2024/25 Season of *Love & Lust* with the sensual *Casanova*, which has been staged only once in the United States and never before in the Midwest. This original ballet is based on the shocking true story of Casanova, an 18th-century Venetian priest turned Parisian socialite best known for his sexual encounters and multifarious scandals.

The Company will bring this opulent Milwaukee Ballet debut to life from November 1-3 at Marcus Performing Arts Center. The production is rated 16+ due to sexual content.

Choreographed by prolific British artist Kenneth Tindall, *Casanova* was inspired by the biography of Giacomo Casanova written by Ian Kelly. In turn, Kelly was inspired by Casanova's original 3,700-page long autobiography, which recorded over 120 love affairs alongside philosophical musings and unbelievable tales of prison breaks, duels, spy work, and much more.

"I went through [Casanova's autobiography] and tried to work out what could be told well on stage," says Tindall. "Ian Kelly and I decided what the key parts of his story were and how we could create a narrative arc from those. They try to make fiction now as exciting as Casanova's real life was!"

Artistic Director Michael Pink selected Tindall's work as part of this season's repertoire in part based on Tindall's past relationship with the Company. In 2019, Tindall won "Audience Favorite" at Milwaukee Ballet's biennial *Genesis International Choreographic Competition*.

"I think Kenny is a remarkable talent, and I'm thrilled to welcome him back for a full-length production," says Pink. "I know our Milwaukee audience quite well, which is why I feel certain that they will be as enamored with *Casanova* as I was upon first viewing."

Several of the dancers who performed in Tindall's *Genesis* piece will now work with him again in *Casanova*.

Casanova premiered at Northern Ballet in Leeds, West Yorkshire, England in spring 2017. Other members of the production staff included Kerry Muzzey, composer of the cinematic original score; Christopher Oram, designer of the opulent sets and costumes; and Alastair West, curator of the dynamic lighting design.

Synopsis

In 1740s Paris, the aspiring priest Casanova is stripped of his church career due to his love of modern philosophy... and his seduction by two of his female pupils. Defrocked, he is left only with his violin and a science book banned by the Venetian Inquisition. Adopted by a Senator—who believes his life to have been saved by their shared interest in science—Casanova begins an affair with an aristocratic nun, but the Inquisition discovers his forbidden book and has him imprisoned.

In Paris a year later, Casanova narrates his dare-devil prison escape to the enraptured salon of Madame de Pompadour. He wins fame and fortune but remains desperate to be taken seriously as a philosopher. He becomes besotted with a singer who is obliged to masquerade as a castrato and with a married woman whom he believes to be the love of his life. When the latter returns to her husband and child, Casanova falls into a suicidal depression. His memories both haunt and save him: he writes his autobiography *The History of My Life*.

Performance Information

Casanova will run from November 1-3 at Marcus Performing Arts Center. Tickets start at \$48 and may be purchased online at www.milwaukeeballet.org/casanova or through the Milwaukee Ballet Box Office at 414.902.2103. The production is rated 16+ due to sexual content.

The performance schedule is as follows:

- Friday, November 1, 2024 – 7:30 PM
- Saturday, November 2, 2024 – 2:00 PM
- Saturday, November 2, 2024 – 7:30 PM
- Sunday, November 3, 2024 – 2:00 PM

Milwaukee Ballet's 2024/2025 Season is presented by Donald & Donna Baumgartner and the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF), with support from Wisconsin Arts Board, CAMPAC, Milwaukee Arts Board, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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About Milwaukee Ballet

Milwaukee Ballet was founded in 1970. Led by Artistic Director Michael Pink, Milwaukee Ballet creates a rich and diverse community through its inspiring dance performance, education, and outreach. Milwaukee Ballet hosts an international Company of dancers and maintains 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, teaching beginner through pre-professional levels in three locations: Third Ward, Fox Point, and Brookfield. Milwaukee Ballet's award-winning Community

Engagement department serves thousands of people in Southeastern Wisconsin each year through original, interactive programs. Milwaukee Ballet is a proud cornerstone member of United Performing Arts Fund and holds a four-star rating from Charity Navigator.

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