



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 14, 2020

PRESS OPENING:
Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 8:00pm

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**GREATER BOSTON STAGE COMPANY PRESENTS
THE WORLD PREMIERE OF
*SWAN LAKE IN BLUE: A JAZZ BALLET***

Greater Boston Stage Company is proud to announce the World Premiere Dance Event ***Swan Lake in Blue: A Jazz Ballet***, created and composed by renowned jazz musician and composer Steve Bass. Choreographed and staged by GBSC Associate Artistic Director and multiple IRNE and Elliot Norton Award Winner Ilyse Robbins, ***Swan Lake in Blue: A Jazz Ballet*** is inspired by and loosely based on Tchaikovsky's masterpiece, *Swan Lake*.

Featuring big band jazz music as well as a company of tap and jazz dancers, ***Swan Lake in Blue: A Jazz Ballet*** tells the story of a Broadway producer who falls madly in love with a burlesque dancer, Odette. He then discovers that she is under the control of a terrible mob boss and is being forced to perform nightly at The Swan Club. Passion, betrayal and mistaken identities ensue—will Odette fly away from her past or stay caged forever?

Composer and creator Steve Bass says of the Premiere, "Jazz was my first musical love, and I've also always loved tap dance. This piece is ballet at its core— storytelling through dance and instrumental music—and I have replaced the classical orchestra with a jazz big band and replaced the ballet dancers with tap, jazz, and lyrical dancers. The idea was to have something that looked and sounded much closer to a Broadway musical, but with no words—a Jazz Ballet. I immediately knew I wanted to base it on Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* and I began adapting the classic fairy tale into a 1940s New York City setting."

Choreographer Ilyse Robbins is a celebrated tap dancer, having danced with tap legend Gregory Hines. She has won IRNE awards for Best Choreographer for *Dames at Sea*, *How to Succeed in Business...*, and *42nd Street*, among others. She is thrilled to be staging to Bass' creation. "This production is the perfect complement to GBSC's commitment to telling familiar stories in fresh new ways," says Robbins.

Swan Lake in Blue: A Jazz Ballet lands at Greater Boston Stage Company on Saturday, **February 15, 2020** and runs through Sunday, **March 1, 2020**. The Press Opening is Saturday night, **February 15, 2020 at 8pm**.

Single Tickets for ***Swan Lake in Blue: A Jazz Ballet***: \$50 - \$60 for adults; \$45 - \$55 for seniors; \$20 for students (with valid ID). Tickets for senior matinees are \$37. Group Discounts are available. Contact Bryan Miner, Audience Development Manager, at 781-587-7907 or bryan@greaterbostonstage.org. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Box Office at Greater Boston Stage Company at (781) 279-2200, or visit www.greaterbostonstage.org.

PRINCIPAL ARTISTS:

STEVE BASS (*Composer/Creator*) has a Doctorate in Composition and Jazz Piano from the New England Conservatory and is currently working as a freelance musician and educator in Boston. He has worked as a music director, conductor, arranger, and pianist in Massachusetts and New Hampshire for the last 10 years. Previous credits as music director include Company Theatre, Norwell, MA: *Paragon Park*, *American Idiot*, *Oliver!*, *Ragtime* (IRNE nomination for Best Music Director), *La Cage Aux Folles*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Sister Act*, *Bridges of Madison County*, *Legally Blonde*; Greater Boston Stage Company, Stoneham, MA: *Onegin* (US Premiere), *Being Earnest* (East Coast Premiere); Norwood Theatre, Norwood, MA: *Hairspray* (Broadway World winner of Best Musical, Best Creative Team, and Best Ensemble); Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA: *The Grand Room* (World Premiere), *Reefer Madness*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Last Five Years*; Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, Acton, MA: *Into The Woods* (TAMY nomination for Best Music Director), *Sweet Charity* (TAMY nomination for Best Music Director). In addition to performing, Steve is the Director of In-Home Lessons at Jammin' With You, a music education company serving over 1,000 private students in the Greater Boston area and Brooklyn, NY. stevebassmusic.com

ILYSE ROBBINS (*Choreographer/Staging*) is the Associate Artistic Director at GBSC where she has directed, choreographed or performed in over 30 shows. Directing highlights include *Miracle on 34th Street*; *Million Dollar Quartet*; *Being Earnest* (East Coast Premiere); *She Loves Me* (IRNE—Best Direction); *Dames at Sea* (IRNE—Best Choreography); *Sweet Charity*; *How to Succeed...* (IRNE—Best Choreography); *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Elliot Norton—Best Director); *42nd Street* (IRNE—Best Choreography). Other credits: United Solo NYC, SpeakEasy, Hanover, Lyric Stage, New Rep, Underground Railway, Modern Theatre, Hope Rep, Wheelock. Ilyse holds a B.S. from Northwestern, certification from the British American Drama Academy and an Ed.M. from Harvard. She teaches at Brandeis and Northeastern and coaches presentation skills for business. Upcoming: Directing/choreographing *Matilda* for GBSC. Ilyse is an Associate Member of SDC.

SARA COOMBS (*Odette/Odile*) is an actress/choreographer/teaching artist based in NYC. As a performer, she was most recently seen on the GBSC stage as Doris Walker in *Miracle on 34th Street*. Other GBSC credits include: *42nd Street*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Dames at Sea*, *She Loves Me* and *Being Earnest*. She has choreographed Off-Broadway shows, national tours, and many musicals in regional theatres. Sara is a member as well as the choreographer of Manhattan Shuffle: NYC's Premiere Song and Tap Trio - manhattanshuffle.com. With over 15 years of teaching experience, Sara has taught tap dance and theatre at Broadway Dance Center, Peridance Capezio Center in NYC, and at multiple theaters throughout New England. She holds a B.F.A in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory. Instagram: @coombaloo

ANDY MCLEAVY (Florenz Siegfried) – is thrilled to return to GBSC having previously appeared as Billy Lawlor in *42nd Street*. A few of his favorite credits include Antipholus of Ephesus in *Boys From Syracuse* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company/Boston Landmarks Orchestra), Jimmy in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Merry-Go-Round Playhouse/Rev Theatre & Reagle Music Theatre), Pat Denning/Dancer in *42nd Street* (Atlantic City's Tropicana Casino), George in *Goldilocks* (NYC's Opening Doors Theatre Company), Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast* (Company Theatre), *On The 20th Century* w/Alice Ripley, and *Carousel* w/Shirley Jones. Andy is proud to have sung the national anthem multiple times at Mohegan Sun Arena, McCoy Stadium, and the Ryan Center. He also loves teaching Zumba & Tap, as well as singing and songwriting under the nickname "Andy Macktastic". Andy is a former joke writer for SomeEcards.com. Instagram: @andymacktasticmusic

Performance Schedule:

	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
2020				3PM 8PM	2PM
	FEB	13	14	15	16
	2PM	7:30PM	8PM	3PM	2PM
	19	20	21	22	23
				3PM 8PM	2PM
	26	27	28	29	MAR 1



Savvy Saturday (like Thrifty Thursday but on Saturday at 8pm!)



Senior Matinee



Girls' Night Out

ABOUT GREATER BOSTON STAGE COMPANY:

We bring vibrant professional theatre and dramatic education beyond the boundaries of Boston, featuring world and regional premieres alongside fresh interpretations of familiar work. Within this setting, we uniquely foster the artists of tomorrow by providing ongoing performance and employment opportunities to our company of current and former students. Now in its 20th Season of live theatre in Stoneham, MA, Greater Boston Stage Company produces seven Mainstage shows, presents a series of Special Events, and runs year-round classes, lessons, and fully staged productions through The Young Company for students in grades 1–12.

Box Office: (781) 279-2200

Box Office Hours: Mondays – Fridays, 11am to 6pm; Saturdays, 1pm to 6pm

Location: 395 Main Street, Stoneham, MA 02180

Website: www.greaterbostonstage.org

Flagship Season Sponsors: StonehamBank and the Salem Five Charitable Foundation

SEASON 20 PRESS OPENINGS:

THE MOORS

Press Opening: Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 8pm

<https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/moors.html>

ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL

Press Opening: Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 7pm

<https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/matilda.html>

MISS HOLMES RETURNS

Press Opening: June 6, 2020 at 8pm

<https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/missholmesreturns.html>