

# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ALBANY BERKSHIRE BALLET

## ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***

One of Albany Berkshire Ballet's most celebrated productions returns for a 2019 tour, reinvented with new choreography by Paula Weber. In this magical two-act ballet telling of Shakespeare's beloved comedy, Queen Titania and King Oberon rule over the fairies and toy with the lives of mortals as they manipulate mismatched human lovers in ecstatic dance.

With enchanting music by Felix Mendelssohn and stunning original set art by Thurston Munson, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is sure to delight all ages and experience levels.

### **The Revival of Full Length Ballets, Year- Round**

This staging of *Midsummer* represents a turning point in the history of Albany Berkshire Ballet. Since the 1970s, the company has collaborated with incredible talents both local and worldwide in performing stunning full length productions such as *Coppelia*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Carmina Burana*, *The Firebird*, and many others. Following the economic downturn of 2008 and beyond, the company was forced to curtail plans for a 2009 production of this ballet. While ABB has continued to delight audiences in cities around the northeast with its annual *Nutcracker*, along with promoting new repertory of dance from leading choreographers, it has had a limited capacity to provide a greater variety of full length ballet productions to the communities it serves throughout the year. Addressing this identified need in the region is an important part of ABB's company priorities as we move forward in our triumphant 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

Your support will assure a thriving future for full length ballet productions to delight residents and attract visitors to this beautiful area in the years to come.





50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ALBANY BERKSHIRE BALLET

Madeline Culpo, Artistic Director  
Mary Giannone Talmi, Associate Artistic Director

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

Choreographed by Paula Weber

<b>August 23</b> 7:30pm The Egg Albany, NY	<b>August 31</b> 7:30pm Academy of Music Northampton, MA	<b>September 7</b> 7:30pm The Colonial Theatre Pittsfield, MA
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[www.berkshireballet.org](http://www.berkshireballet.org) | 413.445.5382

**Paula Weber** is Professor of Ballet and Chair of Dance in the Conservatory of Music and Dance, University of Missouri- Kansas City. She has performed solo and principal roles of more than 45 major works for companies such as Milwaukee Ballet, Chicago Ballet, Indianapolis Ballet Theatre, and Albany Berkshire Ballet (including our first 1987 production of *Midsummer*), and her choreography has been performed by dozens of major ballet companies throughout the United States. She has been a guest instructor of ballet throughout the U.S. and internationally.



## PRESENTING THE DREAM

**\$7,500**

- Lead sponsor of full tour
- Featured prominently in over \$10,000 production advertising July –Aug: print, radio, television, social, interviews, and publicity
- Full page program advertisement and cover page “Presented by” Acknowledgement
- Presenting Sponsor Lobby Signage
- 10 free tickets & discounted tickets available for staff
- Sponsored table (8 seats) at Annual Gala
- Framed Production Poster -signed by principal cast & Artistic Director

*“The Albany Berkshire Ballet can be counted on for impressively crisp, clear classical technique and fresh performing”* -The New York Times

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 1987

## Ballet: Berkshire Group In ‘Midsummer Night’

By JENNIFER DUNNING

Special to The New York Times

PITTSFIELD, Mass., Aug. 14 — The Berkshire Ballet can be counted on for impressively crisp, clear classical technique and fresh performing. In “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” presented by the company on Thursday afternoon at the Koussevitsky Arts Center of the Berkshire Community College, the choreographer Daryl Gray has given these engaging young dancers a chance not only to make good use of their technical resources but to weave a charming summer spell.

Mr. Gray tells Shakespeare’s comic tale of love with clarity and compellingly gentle humor. He introduces the story’s themes and characters seamlessly, in staging filled with inventive dramatic detail. In the first act, for instance, Puck munches on a green apple, watched by a glum-eyed painted boulder, and Oberon’s little attendant elves leapfrog about the stage.

and their presence is as jarring as the breaks that follow in the taped performance of the Mendelssohn score.

The Berkshire Ballet was founded in 1960 by Madeline Cantarella Culp, its present director and a Juilliard-trained ballet teacher in the Pittsfield area, where the company is based. And the dancers have the look of products of a long-term perspective, from the women’s pristine footwork to the naturalness and professional discipline of the little elves — students from Mrs. Culp’s school.

Deirdre Duffin was a gracious young Titania. Her looks are a little Junior League for a wild creature of the woods, but the lovely arch of her feet bore the message of Titania’s impetuosity, giving her the look of moving before a wind in the pas de deux with Bottom. Troy Hoggart was a regal Oberon, though his dancing was a little tight, and he and Ms. Duffin sailed through the daredevil partnering of their last pas de deux with startling aplomb. Jeremy Lemme was an eerily simian Puck, in a casually intense performance that nearly

“...energetic and engaging... stunning... a landmark performance” - *Metroland*

“...a genuinely classical ensemble” - *Dance Magazine*

“A lively pace and a series of enchantment... exceptional principal dancers...”

- *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*

## MAJOR SPONSOR

**\$2500+**

- Half page advertisement/ acknowledgement in programs (full tour)
- Feature in all posters and printed promotional materials
- Banner/logo recognition on ABB website – 1 year
- Invitation to attend and observe a rehearsal
- Framed Production Poster -45th Annual Nutcracker -signed by principal cast & Artistic Director
- 4 performance tickets

## SUPPORTING THE DREAM

**\$500+**

- Quarter page advertisement & sponsor acknowledgement in programs (full tour)
- Banner/logo recognition on ABB website – 1 year
- 2 performance tickets

*ABB welcomes new ideas for collaborative partnerships and we are happy to work flexibly to find a sponsorship that best suits you. Please Contact Joe Durwin, Director of Communications & Partnerships: [Joe@albanyberkshire.org](mailto:Joe@albanyberkshire.org) | 413.347.9877(c)*