



THE ALLEY
AlleyMarley
 Jeffrey Bean is the Ghost of Marley in the Alley Theatre's annual production of *A Christmas Carol, A Ghost Story of Christmas*. Photo by Jim Caldwell.

ALLEY THEATRE

The Tony Award-winning Alley Theatre kicks off its 2004-2005 season in October with two extraordinary productions. On the larger Hubbard Stage Oct. 15 through Nov. 7 is the world premiere comedy **Leading Ladies** by Broadway writer Ken Ludwig. The celebrated author of Broadway hits **Lend Me a Tenor** and **Crazy for You** has crafted a new hilarious comedy about mistaken identities. And, on the smaller Neuhaus Stage Oct. 1 through 31, the Alley produces a powerful piece of documentary theatre, **The Exonerated**. Then, beginning in November, the Alley's holiday spectacle **A Christmas Carol, A Ghost Story of Christmas** plays to audiences of all ages (Nov. 26 - Dec. 28).

The Alley's season later includes a two-play tribute to **Arthur Miller**, a comedy by **Steve Martin**, the Tony-nominated psychological thriller **Frozen** and the popular **Steel Magnolias**.

One of the most important and exciting components of the Alley's new season is its new "Cheap Thrills" ticket program, which will make \$19 tickets available for Tuesday and Sunday evening performances throughout the season. For more information about \$19 "Cheap Thrills" tickets, the Alley Theatre's schedule and more, visit www.alleytheatre.org or call 713/228-8421.

DA CAMERA OF HOUSTON

Experience Da Camera of Houston's unique variety of exciting concerts in some of the city's most intimate settings.

Da Camera's concerts at the Wortham Theater Center's Cullen Theater and The Menil Collection feature small ensembles performing chamber music, jazz, early music and contemporary music. Da Camera's all-Beethoven opening night concert on October 2nd features clarinetist **Richard Stoltzman**, pianist and Artistic Director **Sarah Rothenberg** and a stellar group of Texas-based musicians. The jazz series kicks off October 23rd with the only announced performance as a duo by vocalist and seven-time Grammy Award nominee **Kurt Elling** and vibraphonist extraordinaire **Stefon Harris**. Renowned violinist **Gidon Kremer** returns to Houston November 9th with his chamber orchestra, **Kremerata Baltica**. Concerts at The Menil

Collection include a **75th birthday celebration for American composer George Crumb** on October 26th, a November 16th solo recital by cellist **Pieter Wispelwey** and the Houston debut of boundary-smashing jazz pianist **Hiroimi** and her trio, December 6th and 7th. For tickets and information, call 713-524-5050 or go to www.dacamera.com.

AT&T WIRELESS BROADWAY IN HOUSTON

BROADWAY IN HOUSTON presents **Hairspray** at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts November 9 - 21. Broadway's new musical-comedy phenomenon takes you back to 1962 Baltimore, as 16-year-old Tracy Turnblad sets out to dance her way into TV's most popular show. Can a big girl with big dreams – and even bigger hair! – change the world...and still have time to win the boy she loves? For tickets, call 713-629-3700 or visit BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com.

Season Tickets are still available for the 2004-2005 season by calling



DA CAMERA OF HOUSTON
 Jazz vibraphonist **Stefon Harris**, performs with vocalist **Kurt Elling** on October 23 at the Wortham Theater Center.

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713-622-7469 or visit BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com.
 BROADWAY IN HOUSTON – EXPERIENCE THE BEST!

UNIQUELY HOUSTON® AT THE HOBBY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Stages Repertory Theatre's EarlyStages series will move to Zilkha Hall as part of the *Uniquely Houston®* series beginning with holiday favorite **The Toys Take Over Christmas**. This innovative collaboration with the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts offers EarlyStages the opportunity to perform in a state-of-the-art venue and reach larger audiences through the Center's marketing efforts.

Likewise, the alliance helps fulfill the founding mission of the Hobby Center and *Uniquely Houston®* as it broadens the quality and accessibility of cultural fare to the public while encouraging distinctive arts education and outreach programs.

The relationship between EarlyStages and the Hobby Center is a great example of two arts organizations pooling their resources to better serve their community, build future audiences and contribute to the cultural quality of life of Houston.

Shows at the Hobby Center this fall include: **The Illumination Project, Handel's Water Music, Phantasia** and **Robert Earl Keen**.

Log on to www.thehobbycenter.org for more information and a complete fall schedule.

HOUSTON BALLET

From September 23 – October 3, 2004, Houston Ballet Choreographic Associate Trey McIntyre will restage **Peter Pan**, his first full-length work for the company, which was a smashing success with audiences and critics alike. Based upon the popular story by Sir James M. Barrie, the ballet is set to the music of Sir Edward Elgar in an arrangement by Niel DePonte. With elaborate, magical sets by scenic designer Thomas Boyd and imaginative costumes by Broadway designer Jeanne Button, the production reinterprets the classic story with verve and wit for the new millennium.

From October 28 – 31, 2004, Houston Ballet's Cullen Series returns with a new focus: to present emerging international choreographers who are building names for themselves in the world of ballet. The program features world premieres by Houston Ballet Artistic Director Stanton Welch, Adrian Burnett and Matjash Mrozewski. Also included on the program is a revival of Trey McIntyre's quirky **Touched**.

From November 26 – December 26, 2004 Houston Ballet will bring Texas its most joyous holiday gift, Ben Stevenson's breathtaking production of **The Nutcracker**. The beloved ballet tells the story of a little girl named Clara who is given a magical nutcracker doll on Christmas Eve. She encounters the frightful rat king before embarking on a journey through the Land of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets. Young and old alike will experience the many special effects, including the Christmas tree, which "grows" to forty feet, 200 pounds of "snow" falling during the snow scene, and the firing of a cannon on stage.

AT&T WIRELESS BROADWAY IN HOUSTON

Hairspray, The Company
 Photo: Paul Kolnik



UNIQUELY HOUSTON®
 EarlyStages,
The Toys Take Over Christmas
 Photo: Bruce Bennett



HOUSTON BALLET
Nutcracker
 Mother Ginger:
 Dancers: Artists of Houston Ballet
 Photo: Jim Caldwell



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HOUSTON GRAND OPERA
Madame Butterfly
Photo by Ken Howard



HOUSTON GRAND OPERA
 Celebrate!

Houston Grand Opera is celebrating its Golden Anniversary all season long, and you won't want to miss the fun. We start the party with a blend of new and classic works.

Puccini's **Madame Butterfly** (October 22–November 13), led by HGO Music Director Patrick Summers, opens the season. The tale of the trusting Japanese girl forsaken by her American husband is one of the most beloved works in the repertoire.

Salsipuedes, a tale of Love, War and Anchovies (October 29–November 14) is the funny and poignant tale of two young couples whose lives are dramatically altered on their wedding day when their tiny island nation declares war on Nazi Germany. This new opera by Daniel Catán, composer of HGO's phenomenally successful **Florencia en el Amazonas**, will have you dancing in the aisles!

Finally, the holidays bring the Return of the Prince—**The Little Prince**, that is, an opera by Rachel Portman based on Saint-Exupéry's beloved novel. **The Little Prince** made its world premiere at HGO a scant year ago and was greeted with sold-out houses and accolades from critics and audiences alike. Don't miss your chance to see it when it returns to the Wortham's Cullen Theater December 5–19!

All performances are held in the Wortham Theater Center, Texas at Smith. For information, visit www.houstongrandopera.org or call Houston Grand Opera's Customer Care Center at 713-228-OPERA (6737) or 800-62-OPERA (800-626-7372).

HOUSTON SYMPHONY

With a season-long theme of fairy tales and music, a roster of outstanding guest conductors and artists, and a number of innovative and precedent-setting concerts, the Houston Symphony presents its 2004-2005 season. The classical series' fairy tale theme includes familiar works such as Stravinsky's ballet **Petrouchka** and Ravel's **Mother Goose Suite**, as well as **The Mermaid** by Zemlinsky and Bartók's **The Wooden Prince** and **Duke Bluebeard's Castle**. Six other works with fairy tale themes are part of the season. The hugely popular Michael Krajewski returns as principal pops conductor for his fifth season of fun-filled ExxonMobil Pops concerts, featuring such outstanding guests as Broadway's Bernadette Peters and Grammy Award-winning Nanci Griffith. The interAct! series of four inventive, themed, chamber programs returns to the intimate setting of Zilkha Hall at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. The Houston



HOUSTON SYMPHONY

The Houston Symphony is ready to present an exciting season of great music for 2004-2005

Symphony will bring fairy tales to life and take your children on a musical adventure with the Time Warner Family Concert series. Call 713-224-7575 to find out more about the exciting 2004-2005 season with the Houston Symphony.

SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Society for the Performing Arts' (S.P.A.) fall season is filled with Dance, Music, Family Fun and International entertainment. Dance performances heading to Houston include the Brazilian beats of **Balé Folclórico da Bahia**, Texas' own **Bruce Wood Dance Company**, and the renowned **American Ballet Theatre**. Family Fun performances include the comedic juggling duo of Jon Wee and Owen Morse in **The Passing Zone**; break dancing straight from the streets of New York City in **BREAK! The Urban Funk Spectacular**; and Kennedy Center's new fun-filled musical, **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer**. Houstonians can enjoy Music performances by piano virtuoso **Lang Lang**; the Grammy award winning duo **Emanuel Ax and Yo-Yo Ma**; and classical pianist **Ivo Pogorelich**. Also featured this season is performance artist **Laurie Anderson** presenting her newest solo work, co-commissioned by S.P.A, as well as the American masterpiece **Porgy and Bess**. S.P.A. invites Houston to be a part of this extraordinary season, sure to entertain and inspire. For more information or to purchase tickets contact S.P.A. at 713-227-4SPA or visit www.spahouston.org.



THEATRE UNDER THE STARS

One theatre. Six musicals.

Countless memories. Theatre

Under The Stars' "Six-Star

Rated" 2004-2005 season

will enliven the fall with world-

class musicals for the whole

family – on-stage at the Hobby

Center for the Performing Arts. From

October 20 – November 7, TUTS will stage a 30th

Anniversary production of **A Chorus Line**, one of

the longest-running musicals on Broadway.

Winner of nine Tony Awards and a Pulitzer Prize,

Michael Bennett's dazzling masterpiece, featur-

ing music by Marvin Hamlisch, enchanted audi-

ences for a record 15 years and featured such

beloved songs as "One Singular Sensation" and

"What I Did For Love." Twenty-four dancers audi-

tion for an 8-member chorus, sharing their hopes,

fears and desires. With its daringly simple staging,

A Chorus Line forever changed the face of the

Broadway musical. From December 2-19, the glamour,

romance and fun of 1920's Hollywood will take center

stage with TUTS' holiday production of **Singin' in the**

Rain. Full of high-stepping shenanigans, this spoof on the

birth of "talkies" features classic songs, such as "Good

Morning," "Make 'Em Laugh," and the title song, "Singin' in the

Rain." And, of course, it has one of the most spectacular scenes ever

realized on the stage, the famous "Singin' in the Rain" number with real

rain pouring down on the dancers! Single tickets (\$27-\$72) for **A Chorus Line** and

Singin' in the Rain may be purchased by calling (713) 558-TUTS (8887) or (888) 558-3882, in

person at the TUTS Box Office located at the Hobby Center, or online at www.tuts.com. Group

discounts for parties of 15 or more are available by calling (713) 558-8888.



SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS BREAK!

Part of S.P.A.'s Family Fun Series, Break! The Urban Funk Spectacular takes the stage of Jones Hall Friday, October 1.

Center Photo
THEATRE UNDER THE STARS
A Chorus Line
Courtesy of Theatre Under The Stars