

Opening Season Offerings on Three Stages

By Robin Pogrebin

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## Ballet Theater Chief Resigns Suddenly

Janet Rollé is leaving the company after 17 months in charge.

By JAVIER C. HERNÁNDEZ  
Janet Rollé, the chief executive and executive director of American Ballet Theater, resigned a week before the start of the company's summer season after 17 months on the job, the company announced Wednesday.

Rollé, who helped lead the company through the turmoil of the pandemic, did not offer an explanation for her departure, saying only that she would turn her focus to service on corporate and non-profit boards.

"It has been a privilege to lead such a storied company during

in December, said in a statement.

The announcement jarred the dance world, coming just before Ballet Theater begins its season at the Metropolitan Opera House next Thursday with an expensive New York premiere of Christopher Wheeldon's "Like Water for Chocolate." Ballet Theater's leaders are set to host a gala that night to celebrate the start of the season, a high-profile event that draws donors, cultural executives, celebrities and artists.

Rollé's hiring was announced with much fanfare: She had made a name in the entertainment industry, having served as the general manager of Parkwood Entertainment, Beyoncé's media and management company. Rollé, who is Black, was the first person of color to lead the company.

Ballet Theater's executives expressed gratitude to Rollé but offered no details about the circumstances surrounding her resignation. Rollé will advise the search for a successor, the company said.

"Janet joined A.B.T. at a critical time, and we are appreciative of her leadership and contributions," Andrew F. Barth, chairman of Ballet Theater's board, said in a statement. "We thank her for her continued counsel during this transition period and wish her the very best."

Ballet Theater said that Rollé, Jaffe and Barth were not available for interviews. Rollé did not immediately respond to calls and messages seeking further comment.

When Rollé started, in January 2022, she faced several immediate challenges, including helping Ballet Theater recover from the pandemic, which resulted in the cancellation of two seasons and cost the company millions of dollars in anticipated ticket revenue and touring fees.

In a rare interview with Sports Illustrated last year, she said she hoped to find new audiences for Ballet Theater.

"What I think about is how to make that definition of being America's national ballet company real and true for all Americans," she said in the interview.

The company endured some artistic struggles under her tenure. In December, the choreographer Alexei Ratmansky said he was leaving after 13 years as artist in residence, a significant blow to the company. Soon after, New York City Ballet announced he would join that company as artist in residence beginning in August.



American Ballet Theater's chief, Janet Rollé, resigned a week before the start of its summer season.

such a crucial period of time, and I am grateful for this experience," Rollé, a former leader of Beyoncé's business empire, said in a statement. "I would like to extend my sincerest best wishes to A.B.T. as they embark on this new chapter."

Susan Jaffe, Ballet Theater's artistic director, will serve as interim executive director until a successor to Rollé is found, the company said. "I am humbled by the board's confidence in me and excited to lead A.B.T. during this transition," Jaffe, a former Ballet Theater ballerina who took office



Dance, opera, music and theater will be presented at PAC NYC, formerly the Perelman Performing Arts Center, on the World Trade Center site.

## Opening-Season Offerings on Three Stages

A Lower Manhattan cultural center will introduce itself with an eclectic lineup.

By ROBIN POGREBIN  
As the marble-clad, cubelike Perelman Performing Arts Center has taken shape at the World Trade Center site, questions have swirled about what will actually happen inside.

Some answers came on Wednesday, when the center announced a first year of programming that will feature original work, including the premiere of an autobiographical play written by and starring the actor Laurence Fishburne called "Like They Do in the Movies," as well as partnerships, including with the Tribeca Festival.

Bill Rauch, the center's artistic director, said the roster was deliberately eclectic.

"We very much want to give many different audiences many different reasons to come into our building," he said in a telephone interview, adding that PAC NYC—as the center is being called—is invested in "creating connections."

The year will feature dance, opera, music and theater. Some highlights include:

- The world premiere of "Watch Night," a new multidisciplinary piece by the dance artist Bill T. Jones, the poet Marc Bamuthi Joseph and the composer Tamar Khal, in November.

- The New York premiere of "An American Soldier," an opera by the composer Huang Ruo and the playwright David Henry Hwang. The opera, which will be staged in May, tells the true story of Danny Chen, a

New Yorker who enlisted in the Army and was subjected to hazing and racist taunts in Afghanistan, and who died by suicide at 19.

- A reimagining of the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Cats" set in New York City's ballroom scene. The musical, planned for next June and July, will be directed by Zhailou Livingston and Rauch; its choreographers will be Arturo Lyons and Omar Wiles, and its dramaturg and gender consultant will be Josephine Kearns.

Dance performances will include a celebration of street dance from around the world, including notable D.J.s. There will be a recital by the Easter Island pianist Mahani Teave, an evening with the Broadway performer Brian Stokes Mitchell and, in October, the 2023 Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz International Piano Competition.

Performances at the center are to begin Sept. 19 with a five-evening, pay-what-you-wish concert series called "Refuge: A Concert Series to Welcome the World."

One night will feature New York artists who come from elsewhere, including Raven Chacon, Angélique Kidjo and Michael Mwenso. Another will focus on spiritually oriented performers, including the Klezmatiks and the Choir of Trinity Wall Street. Other concerts will highlight educators (featuring Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra), family ensembles (such as the Villalobos Brothers) and childhood traditions (with Alphabet Rockers).

The center is named for Ronald O. Perelman, the billionaire who made a \$75 million pledge in 2016. But the largest donor wound up being Michael B. Bloomberg, the billionaire former mayor, who gave \$150 million to get it built. The center, which used to call it-

self "the Perelman" for short, now calls itself PAC NYC.

"There will be something for everyone at PAC NYC," Bloomberg, the center's chairman, said in a statement.

The Tribeca Festival will do its own programming, but Rauch described its presence as "a collaboration."

"It's a natural allyship for us, given our location — it made great sense," he said. "We're very excited to have them in the building."

PAC NYC has also partnered with Creative Artists Agency to present conversations with celebrity authors like Kerry Washington, Jada Pinkett Smith, Jenna Bush Hager and Barbara Pierce Bush.

"Part of what we want to do is not only reflect the dynamic energy of all five boroughs but to invite conversation in our spaces," Rauch said, "so having events that are book readings and getting to hear from the authors just feels like it's well aligned."

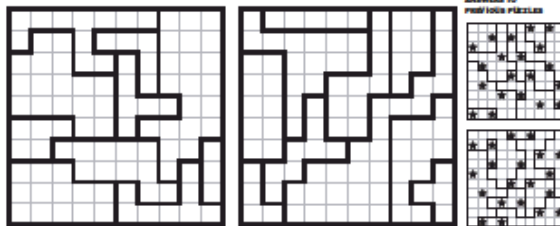
Beginning on June 23, tickets, starting at \$39, are available through February. PAC NYC memberships start at \$10 for the inaugural season.

There are three stages at the PAC seating 99, 250 and 450 people. David Rockwell and his Rockwell Group designed the interior of the lobby and restaurant, which will be run by the chef Marcus Samuelsson along with the bar and outdoor terrace.

Plans for programming in the building's lobby space will be announced in the future and will generally be programmed with less lead time, Rauch said.

"All the performances on that stage will be open and free," Rauch said. "That commitment to access is really crucial."

## Two Not Touch

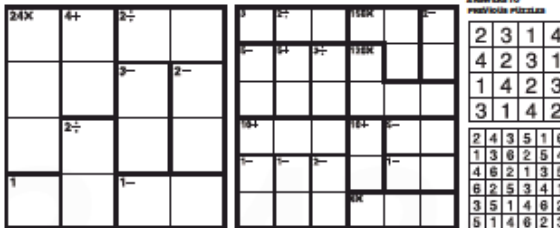


Put two stars in each row, column and region of the grid. No two stars may touch, not even diagonally.

## Cryptogram

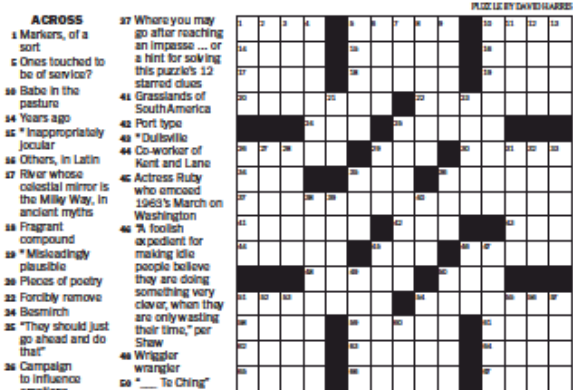
OBDTWB BQED MFR AQED UDTR UQSQGMV, DFP'U JPVZ  
BPMJZ MFR OBP DOBPV QU M GQOQG QQWBOPV. (AQFW!)

## KenKen



Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a digit in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined box will produce the target number shown, by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, as indicated in the box. A 4x4 grid will use the digits 1-4. A 6x6 grid will use 1-6.

## Crossword | Edited by Will Shortz



ACROSS  
1 Markers, of a sort  
2 Ones touched to be of service?  
3 Babe in the pasture  
4 Years ago  
5 \* Inappropriately jocular  
6 Others, in Latin  
7 River whose celestial mirror is the Milky Way, in ancient myths  
8 Fragrant compound  
9 \* Misleadingly plausible  
10 Pieces of poetry  
11 Forcibly remove  
12 Basmirch  
13 "They should just go ahead and do that!"  
14 Campaign to influence emotions and morale, informally  
15 Multiple-episode pilot?  
16 Mary-Louise Parker show about a suburban mom dealing pot  
17 It helps you find your balance  
18 [As written]  
19 Skinny?  
20 Where you may go after reaching an impasse ... or a hint for solving this puzzle's 12 starred clues  
21 Grasslands of South America  
22 Port type  
23 \* Duloville  
24 Co-worker of Kent and Lane  
25 Actress Ruby who coaxed 1963's March on Washington  
26 \* Foolish expedient for making kids  
27 \* Carnies believe they are doing something very clever, when they are only wasting their time," per Shaw  
28 \* Wiggler wrangler  
29 \* "... 'e Ching"  
30 Apple varieties  
31 \* Likely to cause an argument  
32 "La ..." Informal title for the Mexican version of "Slurpee"  
33 Experienced through another  
34 Soothing succulent  
35 \* Earnestly hitting the books  
36 Blow  
37 "That's my cue!"  
38 Breaks down  
39 Figures on a balance sheet  
40 Holds up  
41 Take a stride with pride  
42 \* Permina fabric  
43 T-Sport brand  
44 Stead  
45 Has the wherewithal  
46 "What's the ...?"  
47 Yearning  
48 Has the wherewithal sound effect  
49 Blowhard's exhalation  
50 Held dear  
51 First-year law course  
52 \* Video game quests  
53 Concerning  
54 Disc or cabinet  
55 \* Descriptive lines under photos  
56 Muppet host of "The Not-Too-Late Show"  
57 Total rookie  
58 \* Causes of stress  
59 Babe in the woods  
60 Roller derby production  
61 Cartridge filler  
62 "What's the ...?"  
63 Yearning  
64 Has the wherewithal sound effect  
65 Blowhard's exhalation  
66 Held dear  
67 First-year law course  
68 \* Video game quests  
69 Concerning  
70 Disc or cabinet  
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72 Muppet host of "The Not-Too-Late Show"  
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75 Babe in the woods

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

LEER SPLIT FREE  
IDLE HOOD LACK  
CELL ON THE FENCE  
KNEELED ALLEGED  
NIL TMI  
MUSTSEES ATODDS  
SINCE I SAID FREE  
SMUT STAINO FENL  
HATER ALLIN AAN  
ANEMIC YESA NOMO  
PAS ONE  
TANGENT PROBONO  
DEAR OYATED UPON  
ADAM OVATE LURK  
HARE NEWER ACAP

DOWN  
1 Particles proposed by Michael Faraday in the 1830s  
2 \* "I handle that!"  
3 Sch. whose colors are blue and gold  
4 Taken care of  
5 \* What's worrying is ...  
6 \* Fiery feelings  
7 Exam that many take in H.S.  
8 Get more complex, as a mystery  
9 Blow  
10 \* That's my cue!"  
11 Breaks down  
12 Figures on a balance sheet  
13 Holds up  
14 Take a stride with pride  
15 Cartridge filler  
16 T-Sport brand  
17 Stead  
18 Has the wherewithal  
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