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PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET SOLOIST LUCIEN POSTLEWAITE WINS PRINCESS GRACE AWARD

NEW YORK, NY – The Board of Trustees of the Princess Grace Foundation-USA and its Chairman, Hon. John F. Lehman, recently announced the recipients of 2008 Princess Grace Awards. The Awards for theater, dance/choreography and film continue the legacy of Grace Kelly, Princess of Monaco, who anonymously helped emerging artists pursue their goals throughout Her lifetime. Pacific Northwest Ballet soloist Lucien Postlewaite will be receiving one of the Foundation’s ballet fellowships.

The Princess Grace Foundation-USA, a public charity, was formed after the death of Princess Grace in 1982. They award scholarships, apprenticeships, and fellowships to assist artists with career development.

The Foundation has nurtured an amazingly varied group of more than 500 artists who have gone on to feed the entire spectrum of performing arts with innovative, cutting-edge, vibrant theater, dance, film, playwriting and design. Among some notable Princess Grace Awards recipients in Theater are 2008 Tony Award winner for Best Direction of a Play, Anna D. Shapiro; Pulitzer and Tony Award winning playwright Tony Kushner and Academy Award winner Eric Simonson. Film recipients include Stephen Hillenburg, creator of *SpongeBob SquarePants*; Eric Darnell, director of *Madagascar 1 and 2* and *Antz* and Greg Mottola, director of *Superbad*. In addition to Postlewaite, recipients of Princess Grace Dance Awards include ballet dancers Maria Kowroski and Ethan Stiefel, and choreographers Robert Battle and Dawn Stoppello.

All of this year’s Awards winners will travel to New York City as guests of the Princess Grace Foundation-USA, where they will receive their Awards at a black-tie Gala, held in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco on October 15, 2008 at Cipriani 42nd Street.

“Lucien Postlewaite is one of those rare dancers seemingly capable of anything,” said PNB Artistic Director Peter Boal. “When we met he was a very eager and green thirteen year old student. He is now a gifted member of the Company and an artist of the first order. His clean technique and open mind coupled with a vibrant stage presence and a gift for acting have helped to make him one of our most treasured dancers. We are all very proud of Lucien’s great accomplishments.”

“It is a huge honor to be the recipient of this year’s Princess Grace Foundation dance fellowship,” said Postlewaite. “I greatly admire the past honorees and am proud to be joining this prestigious group.”

LUCIEN POSTLEWAITE is from Santa Cruz, California. He trained on scholarship at the School of American Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet School. While a Professional Division student at PNBS, he received a Level II Award for ballet in the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts’ 2003 Arts Recognition and Talent Search. Mr. Postlewaite joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as an apprentice in 2003, was promoted to corps de ballet in 2004 and to Soloist in 2007.

Mr. Postlewaite has performed leading roles in George Balanchine’s *Agon*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Emeralds*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Oberon), *Prodigal Son*, *Rubies*, *Theme and Variations*, *La Sonnambula*, *Square Dance*, *Symphony in Three Movements*, and *La Valse*; Val Caniparoli’s *The Bridge* and *Torque*; Ulysses Dove’s *Dancing on the Front Porch of Heaven* and *Red Angels*; Willam Forsythe’s *In the middle somewhat elevated* and *One Flat Thing, reproduced*; Ronald Hynd’s *The Merry Widow* (Camille) and *The Sleeping Beauty* (Gold and Silver pas de trois); Jean-Christophe Maillot’s *Roméo et Juliette* (Romeo); Mark Morris’s *Pacific*; Jerome Robbins’ *The Concert* and *In the Night*; Kent Stowell’s *Nutcracker* (Prince), *Swan Lake* (Prince Siegfried) and *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*; Susan Stroman’s *TAKE FIVE ... More or Less*; Richard Tanner’s *Ancient Airs and Dances*; Glen Tetley’s *The Rite of Spring*; Twyla Tharp’s *In the Upper Room*, *Waterbaby* *Bagatelles*; and Christopher Wheeldon’s *Polyphonia*. He originated leading roles in Paul Gibson’s *The Piano Dance* and *Sense of Doubt*, Victor Quijada’s *Suspension of Disbelief*, Olivier Wevers’ *Shindig*, and, for Pacific Northwest Ballet’s 2005 Choreographers’ Showcase, Wevers’ *One Symphony*. He has also been featured in Balanchine’s *Ballet Imperial*, *Symphony in C* and *Symphony in Three Movements*; Val Caniparoli’s *Torque*; Nicolo Fonte’s *Within/Without*; Christopher Stowell’s *Quick Time*; Kent Stowell’s *Carmina Burana*; and Paul Taylor’s *Roses*.

Mr. Postlewaite has performed as a guest artist in China with Utah Regional Ballet. He has also performed Petipa’s *Paquita* and Wevers’ *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* with Reiko Yamamoto Ballet Company in Japan, and Balanchine’s *Tarantella* with Los Angeles Ballet.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET, one of the largest and most highly regarded ballet companies in the United States, was founded in 1972. In July 2005, Peter Boal became Artistic Director, succeeding Kent Stowell and Francia Russell, Co-Artistic Directors since 1977. The Company of forty-six dancers presents more than 100 performances each year of full-length and mixed repertory ballets at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall and on tour. The Company has toured to Europe, Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Canada and throughout the

United States, with celebrated appearances at Jacob's Pillow and in New York City and Washington, DC.

Under the direction of Peter Boal, PNB has continued to expand and diversify its repertory to include works by Ulysses Dove, Susan Marshall, Mark Morris, Victor Quijada, Twyla Tharp, Christopher Wheeldon and others. An annual Spring Dance Festival was inaugurated in April 2007 with the theme Celebrate Seattle. The second annual festival will be the Laugh Out Loud! Spring Dance Festival this April, featuring new and classic comedy ballets.

Founded in 1974, Pacific Northwest Ballet School, under the direction of Franca Russell since 1977 and now under Mr. Boal's direction, is nationally recognized as setting the standard for ballet training and offers a complete professional curriculum to over 950 students. The School also provides comprehensive dance education to the greater Seattle area and reaches over 10,000 adults and children each year through DanceChance, Discover Dance and other outreach programs and activities. For more information about PNB's current season, the Company or the School, please visit www.pnb.org.

Each year, **THE PRINCESS GRACE FOUNDATION-USA** announces a select group of Princess Grace Awards for distinction in the areas of theater, dance, and film. Students are eligible for scholarships; emerging artists working in companies qualify for apprenticeships and fellowships. A playwriting fellowship is available for individual artists through a residency at New Dramatists in New York City. In addition to these, the Foundation also gives honorable mention grants to applicants through Honoraria.

The 2008 Princess Grace Awards winners represent various colleges, universities, and not-for-profit theater and dance companies throughout the United States. This year's winners hail from 16 states and represent twelve organizations that are new to partnering with the Foundation. The Awards winners exemplify both classical and alternative artistic disciplines and, while still considered emerging talent, they are already distinguished in their areas of expertise. For further information on the Foundation, including how to apply for a Princess Grace Award and a full list of recipients, please visit the Foundation online at www.pgfusa.org.

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