

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Pacific Northwest Ballet Returns to New York City with Seven Performances at Joyce Theater

Featuring works by

MARCO GOECKE – EDWAARD LIANG – BENJAMIN MILLEPIED – TWYLA THARP

January 5 - 10, 2010

The Joyce Theater

175 Eighth Avenue (at 19th Street)
New York City, NY 10011

January 5-6 at 7:30 pm

January 7-9 at 8:00 pm

January 9-10 at 2:00 pm

Dance Talks: Monday, January 4

Dance Chat: Wednesday, January 6

**Tour made possible in part by support from Raisbeck Engineering and the
James and Sherry Raisbeck Foundation**

SEATTLE, WA — The Joyce Theater has announced that Pacific Northwest Ballet, under the direction of Peter Boal, will be presenting seven performances January 5 – 10, 2010, as part of The Joyce's fall/winter season. PNB will present the East Coast premieres of two works recently choreographed for the company: Twyla Tharp's *Opus 111*, set to a Brahms string quintet, effuses vivacious folk flavor, while Benjamin Millepied's *3 Movements* features a large ensemble performing to a driving minimalist score by Steve Reich. The program will also include Marco Goecke's volatile solo *Mopey* and Edwaard Liang's episodic pas de deux *Für Alina*. These performances mark Pacific Northwest Ballet's debut at The Joyce Theatre, and PNB's first performances in New York since 2006. Support for Pacific Northwest Ballet's New York performances comes from the James and Sherry Raisbeck Foundation, with matching funds from Raisbeck Engineering.

The Joyce Theater Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization, has served the dance community and its audiences since 1982. One of the only theaters built by dancers for dance, The Joyce Theater has provided an intimate and elegant New York home for more than 300 domestic and international companies. The Joyce has also commissioned more than 130 new dances since 1992. In 1996, The Joyce created Joyce SoHo, a dance center providing highly subsidized rehearsal and performance space to hundreds of dance artists. The Joyce Theater now features an annual season of approximately 48 weeks with over 340 performances for audiences in excess of 135,000.

The line-up for PNB's Joyce performances will include:

Opus 111

Music: Johannes Brahms

Choreography: Twyla Tharp

Costume Design: Mark Zappone

Lighting Design: Randall G. Chiarelli

Assistant to the Choreographer: Charlie Neshyba-Hodges

Premiere: September 25, 2008, Pacific Northwest Ballet

Brahms composed this string quintet (unusually scored for two violins, two violas, and cello) while on a nature retreat in the summer of 1890. The music has a vivacious folk flavor, with the cello featured in the first movement and the viola, Brahms' favorite instrument, carrying the theme in the second. Twyla Tharp has choreographed the quintet's four movements for six couples. "Just like Brahms' music, Tharp's choreography is expansive, full of zest, even saucy at times." (R.M. Campbell, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*) "[*Opus 111*] glides along a shimmering path, allowing Ms. Tharp to demonstrate her ability to mirror complicated music seamlessly while diving beneath its surface." (Gia Kourlas, *The New York Times*)

3 Movements

Music: Steve Reich

Choreography: Benjamin Millepied

Costume Design: Isabella Boylston and Benjamin Millepied, assisted by Larae Theige Hascall

Lighting Design: Brad Fields

Premiere: November 6, 2008, Pacific Northwest Ballet

"The standout [in PNB's 2008 New Works program] is the world premiere of *3 Movements*. Most everything is shades of gray, costumes and vertical swaths of backdrop included. A principal with New York City Ballet, Benjamin Millepied creates a 'city that never sleeps' excitement with this piece that summons memories of Jerome Robbins, finds a driving, lively urbanism in its minimalist score, and ends with the male dancers soaked in sweat, fitted shirts plastered to their chests. On one hand it's tricky and technically challenging, and on the other it brims with insouciance; Millepied's hectic ensembles are as engaging as the sultry pas de deux, danced here by Carla Körbes and Batkhurel Bold. And the costumes, by Isabella Boylston and Millepied, are all kinds of Euro-stylishly sexy." (Michael van Baker, *Seattlest*)

Mopey

Music: C.P.E. Bach (Cello Concerto in A minor, Wq. 172, third movement) and The Cramps ("Surfin' Bird")

Choreography: Marco Goecke

Staging: Sean Suozzi

Costume Coordination: Mark Zappone

Lighting Design: David Moodey

Premiere: March 16, 2004; Peter Boal and Company (New York)

PNB Premiere: November 3, 2005

Peter Boal met Marco Goecke in 2002 when the young German choreographer was invited to participate in New York City Ballet's New York Choreographic Institute. Impressed with Goecke's work for NYCB dancer Sean Suozzi, Boal commissioned a new work for Suozzi for performances by Peter Boal and Company at The Joyce Theater in 2004. Set to music by C.P.E. Bach and the 80's rock band The Cramps, *Mopey* is an inwardly reflective yet volatile solo work—dark, moody and potentially unsettling. Anna Kisselgoff of *The New York Times* called it "a tour de force" and "a touching piece of alienation," while Laura Shapiro of *New York Magazine* praised Suozzi's interpretation as "riveting in a portrait of madness so eloquent it looked like Shakespeare without words." In addition to performances by Pacific Northwest Ballet, *Mopey* has been performed at the

Jacob's Pillow Festival, at the Biennale in Venice and at the 2004 Pina Bausch Festival in Wuppertal. This performance marks *Mopey's* welcome return to The Joyce Theatre.

Für Alina

Music: Arvo Pärt

Choreography: Edwaard Liang

Costume Design: Mark Zappone

Lighting Design: Randall G. Chiarelli

Premiere: September 16, 2006, New Ballet Choreographers (New York)

PNB Premiere: March 13, 2008

Edwaard Liang's *Für Alina* is an episodic duet for a man and a woman set to Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's spare piano solo of the same name. R.M. Campbell of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* described PNB's performance of it as "tumultuous," while Susan Reiter, writing about the piece's 2006 premiere in *danceviewtimes* described the pas de deux as "so delicate and unforced that in retrospect one hardly remembers [the dancers] moving." Reiter continued, "...Liang found a way to make the silences palpable through the choreography, and sustained a profound sadness, so that even as these two figures found strength through each other and flowed in and out of some more extreme shapes, their return to the despairing sense of lost hope of the opening felt inevitable."

Single ticket prices for PNB's performances range from \$10-\$59. (Joyce Members: \$26-\$44) Tickets can be purchased by calling JoyceCharge at 212-242-0800, in person at the Joyce Theater Box Office (Monday - Friday 12-6pm), or online by visiting www.Joyce.org.

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Programming subject to change. For further information, please visit www.joyce.org.

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