



# PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET ANNOUNCES SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY UW HUSKY QUINCY PONDEXTER IN

# Nutcracker Stowell & Sendak

ONE NIGHT ONLY:

7:30 pm

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center

**SEATTLE, WA** – Pacific Northwest Ballet has announced that University of Washington Husky Quincy Pondexter will be pulling on a pair of tights and making his McCaw Hall debut as Grandfather in the Act I party scene of PNB's acclaimed Stowell/Sendak *Nutcracker*. Q-Pon's balletic performance will take place one time and one time only, Wednesday, December 23, 2009 at 7:30 pm.

Pondexter, originally from Fresno, Calif., is a senior on the nationally-ranked Husky basketball team. Currently he is tied for the team's lead in scoring and leads the Pac-10 Conference in rebounding. While he has no previous ballet experience, he has shown grace on his toes and incredible athleticism over the last four years as a Student-Athlete at Washington. Pondexter is a sociology major and one day hopes to be a sports broadcaster after his professional basketball days are over.

Pondexter is one of several celebrity guests that will perform this season in *Nutcracker* as Grandfather or Grandmother during the party scene in Act I. (See list below.) Despite never having seen the show, Pondexter is overwhelmed with the opportunity presented to him by the Pacific Northwest Ballet. "It's an amazing compliment to even be invited to perform with professionals on the stage," said Pondexter. "It will be my first ballet and I can't wait to enjoy the

experience. My whole family is flying up from Fresno to spend Christmas with me and this will just be such a fun way to kick off the holidays.”

Pondexter's appearance will come one day after Washington takes on Texas A&M on the basketball court at Bank of America Arena.

Pacific Northwest Ballet's cherished Stowell/Sendak *Nutcracker* returns to light up Seattle Center's McCaw Hall with memories and merriment for all ages. The only production of its kind in the world, PNB's *Nutcracker* combines PNB Founding Artistic Director Kent Stowell's charming and dramatic choreography with magnificent sets and costumes by renowned author and illustrator Maurice Sendak (*Where the Wild Things Are*) and features the live magic of the PNB Orchestra and more than 200 roles danced by PNB's professional dancers and students. Twenty-six years young, *Nutcracker* is the Northwest's favorite holiday tradition. Celebrate the season with PNB's *Nutcracker*, playing now through December 30, 2009. Tickets may be purchased by contacting the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424, online at [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org) or in person at the PNB Box Office, 301 Mercer Street at Seattle Center. Subject to availability, day-of-show tickets are sold 90 minutes prior to each performance at McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street. A limited choice of tickets is also available at select Ticketmaster outlets, by calling 206.292-ARTS or online at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com). **PLEASE NOTE:** *No other ticket outlets are authorized to sell Pacific Northwest Ballet Nutcracker tickets.*

The complete line-up of special guests performing as Grandmother or Grandfather this year in PNB's *Nutcracker* also includes:

- Saturday, Nov. 28, 2pm: MJ McDermott, KCPQ-13
- Saturday, Dec. 5, 2pm: Spike O'Neill and Joe, KZOK
- Saturday, Dec. 5, 7:30 pm: Monica Guzman, Seattle P-I.com
- Thursday, Dec. 10, 7:30 pm: Shawn Stewart, KMTT The Mountain
- Friday, Dec. 11, 7:30 pm: Steve Pool, KOMO TV (with his daughter dancing as young Clara)
- Tuesday, Dec. 15, 7:30 pm: Jolene McCaw (as in McCaw Hall)
- Wednesday, Dec. 16, 7:30 pm: Luke Burbank, Too Beautiful to Live
- Thursday, Dec. 17, 7:30 pm: Heidi May, KJR
- Saturday, Dec. 19, 7:30 pm: Joyce Taylor, KING 5 News
- Monday, Dec. 21, 2:00 pm: Randy Scott, KMPS
- Monday, Dec. 21, 7:30 pm: Steven Kilbreath, KMPS

There are a few other performers appearing in *Nutcracker*. In fact, taking the stage are PNB's entire company of professional dancers, 26 Professional Division students and over 200 students from Pacific Northwest Ballet School in roles that range from mice and toy soldiers to flowers, peacocks, dervishes and the coveted roles of Clara and her prince. For the current list of who is dancing leading roles, check out PNB's [casting page](#).

For way more *Nutcracker* information, click on the [press release](#) at PNB's online Press Room.

# # #

Supporting sponsor of Pacific Northwest Ballet's *Nutcracker* is UW Medicine. Media support is provided by *The Seattle Times* and KOMO 4. Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2009-2010 Season is proudly sponsored by Microsoft Corporation. Additional season support is provided by Artsfund, the Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, 4Culture - King County Lodging Tax and Washington State Arts Commission.

*Programming subject to change. For further information, please visit: [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org).*

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