



PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 3, 2009

MEDIA CONTACT:

Gary Tucker
206.441.2426
gtucker@pnb.org

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET PRESENTS

DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Featuring works by

VAL CANIPAROLI – MARCO GOECKE – JIRI KYLIAN – JEROME ROBBINS

November 5-15, 2009

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall
321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center
Seattle, WA 98109

November 5-7 at 7:30 pm
November 7 at 2:00 pm
November 12-14 at 7:30 pm
November 15 at 1:00 pm

SEATTLE, WA—Pacific Northwest Ballet Artistic Director Peter Boal's annual **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE** programs highlight both the addition of new works to the company's repertory and the work of great choreographers of our time. This season's **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE** program features the PNB premiere of master choreographer Jiri Kylian's *Petite Mort*, the world premiere of Val Caniparoli's *The Seasons*, the return of Marco Goecke's solo, *Mopey*, and a reprise of last season's major acquisition, Jerome Robbins' *West Side Story Suite*. **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE** runs November 5 to 15 at Seattle Center's Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. Tickets to **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE** start at \$25 and may be purchased by calling the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424, online at www.pnb.org, or in person at the PNB Box Office at 301 Mercer St. Duration: Two hours and thirty minutes.

The line-up for **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE** will include:

The Seasons – World Premiere

Music: Alexander Glazunov (Op. 67, 1899)

Choreography: Val Caniparoli

Scenic & Costume Design: Sandra Woodall

Lighting Design: Randall G. Chiarelli

Using Alexander Glazunov's lush score, originally composed for choreographer Marius Petipa at the turn of the 19th century, Val Caniparoli is creating a large ensemble work drawing on the ballet's original allegory of the four seasons. *The Seasons* will be Val Caniparoli's fifth work for

Pacific Northwest Ballet. The world premiere of Val Caniparoli's *The Seasons* is generously underwritten by Glenn Kawasaki and Ernest & Diane Burgess.

Petite Mort – PNB Premiere

Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Piano Concerto in A Major [Adagio] KV 488, Piano Concerto in C Major [Andante] KV 467)

Choreography: Jiri Kylian

Staging: Roslyn Anderson

Scenic Design: Jiri Kylian

Costume Design: Joke Visser

Lighting Design: Joop Caboort

Lighting Supervision: Kees Tjebbes

Premiere: August 23, 1991: Nederlands Dans Theater

Jiri Kylian choreographed *Petite Mort* for the Salzburg Festival in commemoration of the second centenary of Mozart's death. He chose as his music the slow movements of two of Mozart's most beautiful and popular piano concertos. The choreography includes six men, six women, and six fencing foils. The foils are the men's real dancing partners and sometimes turn out to be more stubborn and willful than a human partner. Besides light-hearted moments with the foils, Kylian also plays with black baroque dresses, which at times appear to exist separately from the dancers and at others to be molded to their bodies. *Petite Mort* is the first work by Jiri Kylian to be acquired by Pacific Northwest Ballet. The PNB premiere of Jiri Kylian's *Petite Mort* is generously underwritten by Jeffrey & Susan Brotman and Peter & Peggy Horvitz.

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. It will return to the Joyce Theatre when PNB tours to New York City in January, 2010.

[Continued]

West Side Story Suite

Music: Leonard Bernstein (“Prologue,” “Something’s Coming,” “Dance at the Gym,” “Cool,” “America,” “Rumble,” and “Somewhere Ballet,” from *West Side Story*, 1957)

Lyrics: Stephen Sondheim

Choreography: Jerome Robbins with Peter Genarro

Staging: Jean-Pierre Frohlich & Elyse Borne

Vocal Coaching: Joan Barber

Scenic Design: Oliver Smith

Costume Design: Irene Sharaff

Lighting Design: Jennifer Tipton

Premiere: May 18, 1995: New York City Ballet

PNB Premiere: March 12, 2009

With a book written by Arthur Laurents, music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and choreography by Jerome Robbins, the musical *West Side Story* is one of the most popular theatrical productions based on William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*. Set on Manhattan’s Upper West Side in the mid-1950s, *West Side Story* explores the rivalry between two teenage gangs of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Tony, who belongs to the native Manhattan gang, the Jets, falls in love with Maria, the sister of the leader of the rival Puerto Rican gang, the Sharks. The dark theme, sophisticated music, extended dance scenes, and focus on social problems marked a turning point in American musical theater.

The original 1957 Broadway production, directed and choreographed by Jerome Robbins, marked Stephen Sondheim’s Broadway debut. The production earned a Tony Award in 1957 for Robbins’ choreography. The musical led to the innovative, award-winning 1961 musical film, winning 10 Academy Awards out of 11 nominations, including Best Director, for Robbins and Robert Wise, and Best Picture. Jerome Robbins extracted a sequence of dances from *West Side Story* to make this suite for New York City Ballet in 1995. The 2009 PNB premiere of Jerome Robbins’ *West Side Story Suite* was generously underwritten by Marcella McCaffray, Lyndall Boal, Carl & Renee Behnke, and Aya Stark Hamilton.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

Born in Renton, Washington, **Val Caniparoli** opted for a professional dance career after studying music and theater at Washington State University. In 1972, at age nineteen, he received a Ford Foundation Scholarship to attend San Francisco Ballet School. He performed with San Francisco Opera Ballet before joining San Francisco Ballet in 1973. Mr. Caniparoli’s works are performed by companies around the world. In 1994, he created a full-length ballet, *Lady of the Camellias*, for Ballet West and Ballet Florida. In 2001, he choreographed a new production of *The Nutcracker* for Cincinnati Ballet. Since 1981, Caniparoli has been the recipient of ten grants for choreography from the National Endowment for the Arts. He was awarded his first artist fellowship from the California Arts Council in 1991. In 1994, he received the Choo-San Goh Award from the Choo-San Goh and H. Robert Magee Foundation for his ballet *Lambarena*, created for San Francisco Ballet, and in 1997, he received the same award for his ballet *Open Veins*. *Lambarena* was also nominated for the Benois de la Danse Award (1997) from the International Dance Association at the National Theater of Warsaw, Poland, where dancers from Pacific Northwest Ballet performed excerpts from the ballet. Dance Bay Area has honored Caniparoli’s contributions with awards for Sustained Achievement and Outstanding Choreography for his ballet *Aubade*, and the 2001 Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Choreography for *Death of a Moth*. Over the years, Mr. Caniparoli has been resident choreographer for San Francisco Ballet, Ballet West, and Tulsa Ballet.

Marco Goecke was born in Wuppertal, Germany. He began his ballet training in 1988 and danced with the Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin and the Theater Hagen Ballet. He created his first choreographic work, *Loch*, for the Theater Hagen Ballet. *Loch* was subsequently performed at the International Choreography Competition in Hannover, Germany. In 2001, Mr. Goecke created *Chicks*, his first work for the Stuttgart Ballet. In 2002, Mr. Goecke was invited by the Choreographic Institute of New York, an affiliate of New York City Ballet, to choreograph a work for NYCB's Diamond Project. He subsequently created *Mopey* for Peter Boal and Company. *Mopey* has been performed at the Jacob's Pillow Festival, at the Biennale in Venice and at the 2004 Pina Bausch Festival in Wuppertal. Mr. Goecke has also worked in opera, creating a solo for *Die verkaufte Braut* for the Staatstheatre Stuttgart Opera in 2003. Also in 2003, he entered the Prix Dom Perignon choreographic competition in Hamburg, where he was awarded First Prize for *Blushing*, a piece for eight dancers. *Blushing* has since entered the repertory of the Stuttgart Ballet and John Neumeier's Hamburg Ballet. In 2005, he created *Sweet Sweet Sweet* for the Stuttgart Ballet, and the work has since been acquired by the Staatsballet Hannover. Also in 2005, he created *Beautiful Freak* for the Hamburg Ballet and won the art prize of the *Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg 2005*. At the beginning of the 2005-2006 season, Mr. Goecke was appointed resident choreographer of Stuttgart Ballet.

Jiri Kylian was born in Prague in 1947. At the age of nine, he began to study dance at the School of the National Ballet. At fifteen, he was accepted at the Prague Conservatory, where he studied under Zora Semberova. With a grant from the British Council in 1967, he went to the Royal Ballet School in London and came in contact with recent developments in contemporary choreography. In 1968, he joined Stuttgart Ballet. His first work, *Paradox*, was choreographed for the Noverre Society. In 1973, he choreographed *Viewers* for Nederlands Dans Theater. He was appointed co-artistic director and choreographer of the company in 1975. Since then, Kylian has created more than fifty ballets for Nederlands Dans Theater, many of them danced by companies all over the world.

Jerome Robbins is world renowned for his work as a choreographer of ballets as well as his work as a director and choreographer in theater, movies, and television. His Broadway shows include *On the Town*, *Billion Dollar Baby*, *High Button Shoes*, *West Side Story*, *The King and I*, *Gypsy*, *Peter Pan*, *Miss Liberty*, *Call Me Madam*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. His last Broadway production in 1989, *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*, won six Tony Awards including best musical and best director.

Among the more than 60 ballets he created are *Fancy Free*, *Afternoon of a Faun*, *The Concert*, *Dances at a Gathering*, *In the Night*, *In G Major*, *Other Dances*, *Glass Pieces* and *Ives Songs*, which are in the repertoires of major dance companies throughout the world. His last ballets include *A Suite of Dances* created for Mikhail Baryshnikov (1994), *2 & 3 Part Inventions* (1994), *West Side Story Suite* (1995) and *Brandenburg* (1996).

In addition to two Academy Awards for the film *West Side Story*, Mr. Robbins has received four Tony Awards, five Donaldson Awards, two Emmy Awards, the Screen Directors' Guild Award, and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. Mr. Robbins was a 1981 Kennedy Center Honors Recipient and was awarded the French Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur. Mr. Robbins died in 1998.

[Continued]

TICKET INFORMATION:

Ticket range: \$25-\$160 (Money-saving season subscriptions starting at \$150 are still available.)
Box Office Phone: 206.441.2424 (Mon.-Fri. 9am–6pm; Sat. 10am–5pm)
Box Office Location: 301 Mercer Street, Seattle (Mon.-Fri. 10am–6pm; Sat. 10am–5pm)
Tickets are also available online 24/7 at www.pnb.org and 90 minutes prior to each performance at McCaw Hall, located at 321 Mercer Street. Discounted rush tickets for students and senior citizens (with ID) may be purchased day-of-show, subject to availability.

DISCOUNT OFFERS & SPECIAL EVENTS:

\$15 TICKETS FOR AGE 25 & UNDER

Thursday, November 5 and both Friday performances: November 6 and 13 at 7:30 pm
One ticket for \$15 and two for \$25 for patrons 25 years and younger! To purchase tickets, contact the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424 or visit 301 Mercer Street. This offer is good for November 5, 6 and 13 performances only. Offer is subject to availability and not valid on previously purchased tickets. Each attendee must present valid I.D. upon ticket retrieval.

\$5 TEEN TIX

PNB is a proud participant of Seattle Center's **Teen Tix** program. Young people 13 to 19 years old can join Teen Tix and purchase tickets to PNB performances and other music, dance, theater, and arts events for only \$5. To join Teen Tix or view a list of participating organizations, visit Seattle Center's Teen Tix webpage at www.seattlecenter.com/teentix.

GROUP SALES

Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. For group tickets, please call 206.441.2416, email juliej@pnb.org or use PNB's Online Group Builder at www.pnb.org. (PNB's Online Group Builder is available for audience members to gather friends, family and co-workers to see any performance and save.)

FRIDAY PREVIEWS — SOLD OUT

Friday, October 30, 6:00 pm

The Phelps Center, 301 Mercer Street, Seattle

Join us for an hour-long dance preview led by Artistic Director Peter Boal and featuring PNB dancers performing excerpts from **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE**. PNB Friday Previews offer an upbeat and up-close view of the Company preparing to put dance on stage. Friday Previews tickets, \$10 each, go on sale eight weeks prior to each event. The **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE** Preview is sold out.

CONVERSATIONS WITH PNB — FREE

Sunday, November 1, 2:00 pm

Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main Street, Seattle

PNB's Sunday afternoon series features an hour-long discussion about **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE** with principal dancer Ariana Lallone in the casual atmosphere of the Elliott Bay Book Company reading room. All *Conversations with PNB* are **FREE** of charge.

BALLET PREVIEW — FREE

Tuesday, November 3, 12:00 noon

Central Seattle Public Library, 1000 Fourth Avenue, Seattle

Join PNB for a free lunch-hour preview lecture at the Central Seattle Public Library. Education Programs Manager Doug Fullington will offer insights about **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE**, complete with video excerpts. **FREE** of charge.

PNB LECTURE SERIES & DRESS REHEARSAL

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Lecture 6:00 – 6:50 pm, *Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall*

Dress Rehearsal 7:00 – 9:30 pm, *McCaw Hall*

Join artistic director Peter Boal and stager Roslyn Anderson for an engaging conversation on Jiri Kylian's *Petite Mort* during the hour preceding the dress rehearsal. Attend the lecture only or stay for the dress rehearsal. Tickets are \$12 for the lecture, or \$25 for the lecture and dress rehearsal. Tickets may be purchased by calling the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424, online at www.pnb.org or in person at the PNB Box Office at 301 Mercer Street.

PRE-PERFORMANCE LECTURES

Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall

Join Education Programs Manager Doug Fullington for a 30-minute introduction to each performance, including discussions of choreography, music, history, design and the process of bringing **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE** to the stage. One hour before performances. **FREE** for ticketholders.

POST-PERFORMANCE Q&A

After the show, skip the traffic and enjoy a post-performance Q&A with Artistic Director Peter Boal and PNB dancers. Immediately following each performance in the Norcliffe Room at McCaw Hall. **FREE** for ticketholders.

#

DIRECTOR'S CHOICE is made possible by presenting sponsor The Boeing Company. Media sponsor for **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE** is The Stranger. PNB's 2009-2010 Season is proudly sponsored by Microsoft Corporation. Additional season support is provided by Artsfund, the Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, 4Culture - King County Lodging Tax and Washington State Arts Commission.

Publicity Contact

Gary Tucker, Media Relations Manager

Tel: 206.441.2426 | E-mail: gtucker@pnb.org | www.pnb.org/press

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

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET
206.441.9411 | 301 Mercer Street Seattle, WA 98109 | www.pnb.org