

PACIFIC  
NORTHWEST  
BALLET

**Peter Boal**  
Artistic Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET and FIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS  
PRESENT COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE

**DISCOVER DANCE: "Ideas in Motion"**

**March 21, 2009 – 2:00 pm**  
*Marion Oliver McCaw Hall*  
321 Mercer Street, Seattle Center

Media interested in observing PNB Teaching Artists working in the schools are invited to contact:

**Judith May Austin, Media Relations Assistant**  
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**SEATTLE, WA** — Join Pacific Northwest Ballet and Seattle area schools for **DISCOVER DANCE: *Ideas in Motion***, March 21, 2009 at McCaw Hall. This annual performance is the culmination of PNB's DISCOVER DANCE Performance Partnership, a large-scale education and outreach project involving over 400 elementary and middle school students from five public schools in the Greater Seattle area: **Daniel Bagley Elementary**, **Graham Hill Elementary**, **Summit School** (Seattle Public Schools); **Eastgate Elementary** (Bellevue School District); and **Rose Hill Elementary** (Lake Washington School District). **DISCOVER DANCE: *Ideas in Motion*** will also feature performances by **REACH Student Dance Group** (an outreach program for youth ages 11-15), as well as works from PNB's repertoire performed by Company dancers. Tickets are \$12 and may be purchased by calling 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 St. (Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10 am-5pm).

*"It helped me gain confidence. I will never forget this experience!"*  
-- 4<sup>th</sup> grade DISCOVER DANCE student from Eastgate Elementary

**About DISCOVER DANCE**

This program has been in existence for eleven years, and has had a performance component for the past nine years. An innovative community-based arts program, DISCOVER DANCE Performance Partnership gives over 400 Seattle and Eastside students, ages 7-14, the opportunity to work with PNB Teaching Artists to create original choreographic works. The students then perform their works onstage at McCaw Hall during **DISCOVER DANCE: *Ideas in Motion*** on March 21, 2009.

DISCOVER DANCE Performance Partnership serves a vital need in the community by bringing comprehensive dance education programs to Seattle and Eastside partner schools year after year. As PNB's largest Community Education program, DISCOVER DANCE aims to give students a truly unique and comprehensive learning experience that mirrors the practices of a professional dance company. PNB offers partner schools a 20-class in-school residency specifically designed to integrate dance exploration with the students' classroom curriculum.

*"[It] teaches students how to integrate classroom learning with personal expression. As a direct result of DISCOVER DANCE, all of my students have vastly increased their confidence, physical well-being, understanding of history, love of the arts, and collaborative skills."*  
- Josephine Cripps, longtime teacher at Summit K-12 School

During these three- to five-month residencies, classrooms of students work with PNB Teaching Artists to translate their academic curriculum into movement. This year, second grade classrooms are already busy creating dances based on their Balance and Motion science unit. Some fourth grade classrooms are

choreographing the story of the Oregon Trail, while others are using their own creative writing as inspiration for movement. Seventh and eighth grade classrooms are drawing inspiration from their globalization curriculum.

In addition to the opportunity to perform their original works at McCaw Hall on March 21, the students also get a behind-the-scenes look at a professional ballet company by taking fieldtrips to see PNB performances and to observe Company dancers rehearsing. They also get to take a ballet class themselves in PNB's studios, and visit PNB's costume shop to learn about building costumes and shoes. From the very beginning of the residency, PNB Teaching Artists guide students not only to learn ballet steps, but to think of themselves as dancers and artists.

*"This program opens up a world of possibilities for our children."*  
- Rose Hill Elementary Principal Joyce Teshima

The intensive in-school residencies culminate when 400 excited public school children gather at McCaw Hall alongside PNB Company dancers to perform their original works. The entire project is truly student-driven by the classrooms that participate each year. This year's performance will also feature students' visual art on the backdrops and vocal music performances by the Graham Hill Elementary Chorus. The end result of DISCOVER DANCE is not only dance education, but also fostering confidence, creativity, and camaraderie among students.

#### **About REACH Student Dance Group**

REACH Student Dance Group is a partnership between Pacific Northwest Ballet and Spectrum Dance Theater. REACH offers 8-week intensive dance workshops for students to learn different dance styles, create original choreography, attend live performances, and perform at McCaw Hall. REACH is open to students ages 11–15 of all ability and experience levels. The 2008-2009 REACH faculty are Jennifer Clark, PNB's Jazz Dance teacher, and Awal Alhasan, African Dance teacher at Spectrum Dance Theater.

**To learn more about PNB Community Education Programs, please visit: [www.pnb.org/outreach](http://www.pnb.org/outreach).**

**Images from Community Education Programs are available in the press room at: [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org).**

#### **TICKET & SHOWTIME INFORMATION**

**DISCOVER DANCE: *Ideas in Motion*** will be performed at **2:00 pm., March 21, 2009** at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall located at 321 Mercer Street, Seattle Center.

**Tickets are \$12** and may be purchased:

- \* By calling the PNB Box Office at **206.441-2424** (Mon.-Fri. 9am–6 pm; Sat. 10am–5pm)
- \* In person at the **PNB Box Office**, 301 Mercer St. (Mon.-Fri. 10am–6pm; Sat. 10am–5pm)
- \* Online at **[www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org)**
- \* 90 minutes prior to the performance at McCaw Hall at 321 Mercer Street
- \* Discounted \$10 tickets are available for groups of 10 or more by calling **206.441.2416** or emailing **[juliej@pnb.org](mailto:juliej@pnb.org)**

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