

PACIFIC
NORTHWEST
BALLET
SCHOOL

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**PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET PRESENTS
SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2009: A DAY OF DANCE**

See the stars of tomorrow on stage today!

2:30 pm:

28th ANNUAL PNBS SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Performance to feature PNB Premiere of George Balanchine's *La Source*

5:30 pm:

FIRST ANNUAL PNBS SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

A good meal for a great cause!

7:30 pm:

SIXTH ANNUAL CHOREOGRAPHERS' SHOWCASE

Premieres of new works by seven Company and faculty members!

Saturday, June 13, 2009

*Marion Oliver McCaw Hall
321 Mercer Street, Seattle Center*

SEATTLE, WA — But wait, there's more! While Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2008-2009 season draws to a close on June 7, the company pulls off a hat trick by presenting two more full programs of dance, featuring the talented students of the Pacific Northwest Ballet School, dancing to works created by PNBS faculty, PNB Company members, and some guy named Balanchine. The 28th Annual School Performance as well as the Sixth Annual Choreographers' Showcase will both be presented on Saturday, June 13 at (respectively) 2:30 and 7:30 pm. The School Performance will include PNB's Professional Division students performing a new acquisition, the PNB premiere of George Balanchine's *La Source*. Sandwiched between the two performances will be PNB School's first-ever Scholarship Dinner, celebrating the successes of our students over the past year, and raising necessary funds to support the promising young students in the future. PNB's Day of Dance takes place at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall at Seattle Center. Tickets to all three events may be purchased from the PNB Box Office: 206.441.2424, online at www.pnb.org, or in person at 301 Mercer Street. (See TICKET AND SHOWTIME INFORMATION below for more details.)

"These performances are some of my favorites of the year," says PNB artistic director Peter Boal. "School Performance offers the opportunity to see the fruits of hundreds of hours of dedication and hard work over the course of the year by all of our remarkable students. From the careful execution of the most basic *porte des bras* to the mastery of Balanchine's most challenging choreography, our students exhibit excellence, pride and joy. And the excitement of new choreography will fill the house with electricity as seven world premieres are unveiled in the Choreographers' Showcase."

28TH ANNUAL PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET SCHOOL PERFORMANCE
2:30 pm, Saturday, June 13

Pacific Northwest Ballet School's **28th Annual School Performance** features Level I – VIII and DanceChance students performing programs designed to showcase their skills and accomplishments over the past year. The performance will also include Professional Division students performing a new acquisition, the PNB premiere of George Balanchine's *La Source*. Simultaneously joyful and refined, *La Source* (set to Leo Delibes' 1866 score for a French ballet with the same name) was created for eleven dancers: a corps of eight women, a female soloist, and a lead couple. The lead female role is technically challenging and detailed, and was initially performed by Balanchine muses Violette Verdy, Kay Mazzo, Gelsey Kirkland, and Suzanne Farrell. Like Edgar Degas' 19th century paintings of the Paris Opera Ballet dancers, *La Source* pays homage to French Romantic ballet and plays into the imagination of the balletomane.

"La Source is not a necessity of life ... Yet, like sampling pastries or wearing new clothes, watching La Source is certainly one of life's small pleasures." — Jack Anderson, *The New York Times*

***La Source*-PNB Premiere**

Music: Léo Delibes

Choreography: George Balanchine

Staging: Peter Boal and Dana Hanson

Costume Design: Karinska

Lighting Design: Randall G. Chiarelli

Premiere: November 23, 1968 (New York City Ballet)

(See DETAILS below for more information about Pacific Northwest Ballet School.)

FIRST ANNUAL PNB SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER: A Celebration of Our Students
5:30 pm, Saturday, June 13

Why scrounge around for food in the 'hood when you can dine in McCaw Hall with the PNB elite? Pacific Northwest Ballet School's **First Annual Scholarship Dinner: A Celebration of Our Students** will celebrate and commemorate the successes of PNBS this past year, and raise necessary funds to support promising young ballet students. As a highlight of the dinner, Director Peter Boal will unveil details of PNB's all-new production of George Balanchine's *Coppélia*, scheduled to premiere in June 2010. Dinner tickets include free admission to...

SIXTH ANNUAL CHOREOGRAPHERS' SHOWCASE
7:30 pm, Saturday, June 13

Join PNB for the **Sixth Annual Choreographers' Showcase**, an evening of seven original works by the next generation of choreographers. Upper level and Professional Division students will take the stage once more, in a program of choreography created for them by PNB Company dancers and PNBS faculty: Sonia Dawkins, Kiyon Gaines, Barry Kerollis, Stacy Lowenberg, Stanko Milov, Jonathan Porretta, and Oliver Wevers. (See DETAILS below for bios of choreographers.)

TICKET & SHOWTIME INFORMATION

All three events take place at McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center on June 13, 2009.

Pacific Northwest Ballet School's **28th Annual School Performance** will be presented at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$25-\$60 for adults, \$15-\$60 for youths under 18.

The **First Annual PNB School Scholarship Dinner: A Celebration of Our Students** begins at 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$125 and include free admission to the Choreographer's Showcase. Patrons can also **sponsor a PNB School scholarship student** to attend the benefit dinner held in their honor for just \$75. For more information about this philanthropic opportunity and sure-fire path to attaining good karma, contact PNB's Special Events office at 206.441.2429 or events@pnb.org.

The **Sixth Annual Choreographers' Showcase** will be presented at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$10-\$20.

Save Five Simoleons: Patrons who purchase tickets to both the School Performance and Choreographers' Showcase can save \$5 at the time of purchase. Combo ticket packages to both shows may be purchased over the phone or in person at the PNB Box Office (not sold online) and are available for \$30, \$55, or \$75.

Tickets 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 24/7 at **www.pnb.org**. (Please note: Combo discount tickets are not available online.)
- * 90 minutes prior to the performance (subject to availability) at McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street.

DETAILS, DETAILS

About the School

Founded in 1974, Pacific Northwest Ballet School is recognized as one of the top three ballet training institutions in the United States. Under the direction of Peter Boal, the School offers a complete, professional curriculum to more than 900 students. The School's Open Program attracts 600 teens and adults who wish to pursue recreational dance instruction in a supportive and encouraging setting. With two locations – The Phelps Center in Seattle and The Francia Russell Center in Bellevue – the School maintains a faculty of over 20 instructors, each with extensive performing backgrounds, and professional piano accompanists.

Pacific Northwest Ballet School is divided into three divisions that are designed to challenge students with each year of study:

Creative Movement and Pre-Ballet students (ages 5-7) are introduced to music, movement and group interaction. The **Student Division** offers eight levels of instruction. Auditions are required for admission and placement is based on age, strength, and physical development. The School's **Professional Division** offers advanced instruction for students planning a professional dance career. This intensive dance instruction includes all aspects of classical ballet technique as well as modern, jazz, and character dance. The Professional Division program is complemented by courses in dance, history, music, choreography, special conditioning, and other related subjects. Students also receive physical and nutritional guidance from the School's staff and professional consultants.

Students benefit from the close ties with Pacific Northwest Ballet's professional Company, half of which received training in the School. Professional Division students often perform with the Company. Apprentices are drawn from the School's Professional Division. In addition to the School Performance, the annual production of *Nutcracker* gives students of all ages valuable performing experience.

In 1994, PNBS launched the **DanceChance** program with four partner schools, and has since been able to offer classical ballet training on full scholarship to over 900 elementary school children. The goal of the program is to discover talented youngsters and provide them with an opportunity that they might not otherwise have had to pursue dance. Currently, DanceChance has 26 partner schools in Seattle and Bellevue. This year, 102 third and fourth grade students enrolled in DanceChance, selected from the falls auditions of 1650 students in the partner schools. DanceChance students are integrated into PNBS beginning at Level III. Currently, 43 DanceChance graduates are enrolled in Levels III through Professional Division. In the Fall of 2008, Eric Hipolito became the first DanceChance graduate to join Pacific Northwest Ballet as a corps member, joining two other DanceChance graduates who have gone on to professional ballet careers.

To learn more about Pacific Northwest Ballet School, please visit www.pnb.org/pnbschool.

About the Choreographers' Showcase Choreographers

Sonia Dawkins joined the PNBS faculty in 1997. She is founder and artistic director of S.D. Prism Dance Theatre. She has taught and been artist-in-residence at North Carolina School of the Arts, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Pennsylvania Ballet, Nevada Ballet Dance Theatre and many other schools nationally and internationally. Ms. Dawkins has also choreographed for Seattle Repertory Theatre and Book-It Repertory Theatre. A native of Orange, New Jersey, she received her BFA from the University of Arts and her MA from SUNY. Ms. Dawkins danced with the National Dance Company of Jamaica and with independent choreographers in New York and Philadelphia.

Kiyon Gaines is from Baltimore, Maryland. He trained at Baltimore School of the Arts, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School, the School of American Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet School. He joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet in 2001. In addition to his performing career, Mr. Gaines is an aspiring choreographer. He created *blitz...Fantasy* for PNB's 2005 Choreographers' Showcase, and *SCHWA* for the 2006 Choreographers' Showcase. *SCHWA* was taken into PNB's repertory during the 2007 Celebrate Seattle Spring Dance Festival. For the 2007 Choreographers' Showcase he choreographed *Infinite Intricacies*. He has choreographed for Tri-Cities Academy, and participated in the prestigious New York Choreographic Institute. Mr. Gaines choreographed *Interrupted Pri'si'zh'en* and *Threefortwoinone* for the 2008 Choreographers' Showcase, and made his PNB season repertory debut in 2008 with the premiere of *M-Pulse*.

Barry Kerollis made his choreographic debut with *Basic Disaster* in PNB's 2008 Choreographers' Showcase. He is from Downingtown, Pennsylvania, and trained on full scholarship at the Kirov Academy in Washington, DC, and the School of American Ballet. He attended summer courses at American Ballet Theatre, Cynthia Gregory's Hampton Dance Festival, Houston Ballet, and the School of American Ballet. Mr. Kerollis joined American Ballet Theatre in 2003. Later that year, he joined Houston Ballet. In 2004, he joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet.

Stacy Lowenberg is from Bettendorf, Iowa. She trained on scholarship with Melissa Hayden at North Carolina School of the Arts and at Pacific Northwest Ballet School. She attended summer courses at the School of American Ballet, Boston Ballet, and Hungarian National Ballet. She joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as an apprentice in 1994. In 1996, Ms. Lowenberg joined Oregon Ballet Theatre. She returned to PNB as a member of the corps de ballet in 1999. Ms. Lowenberg made her choreographic debut with *Rushed Goodbye* at PNB's 2007 Choreographers' Showcase and choreographed *One + One = 1* for the 2008 showcase.

Stanko Milov is from Sofia, Bulgaria. He began his training at age eleven at the State Choreographic School in Sofia, where he graduated with honors. Before coming to the United States, he danced with the National Theatre for Opera and Ballet in Bulgaria and won numerous awards at international ballet competitions, including Bulgaria's National Ballet Competition. He was a principal dancer with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, where he was the recipient of a 1997 Princess Grace Foundation Dance Fellowship Award. He joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as a principal dancer in 1999. In addition to his performing career, Mr. Milov is active as a choreographer, composer, and teacher; in 2008 Mr. Milov formed his own performing group Absolute Ballet which the New Orleans Times called "Absolutely fabulous." www.StankoMilov.com

Jonathan Porretta is from Totowa, New Jersey. He trained on full scholarship at the School of American Ballet. He joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as an apprentice in 1999. He was promoted to corps de ballet in 2000, to Soloist in 2002, and to Principal in 2005. Mr. Porretta has danced with Dances Patrelle in New York and has performed as a guest artist with Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, and San Francisco Opera Ballet. Mr. Porretta has previously choreographed *Duel*, *Flawless*, *Jubilant*, and *Lacrymosa* for the 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2008 (respectively) Choreographers' Showcases.

Olivier Wevers was a principal dancer at Royal Winnipeg Ballet before joining Pacific Northwest Ballet in 1997. Since 1993 Mr. Wevers has choreographed works for companies and schools around the world. He has participated in PNB's Choreographers' Showcase every year since 2004, and also choreographed for Spectrum Dance Theater, Seattle Dance Project and Cornish College of the Arts. In 2005 he created an original one-act production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Reiko Yamamoto Ballet in Japan. In 2006 he was invited to the prestigious New York Choreographic Institute, and will be participating in the 2009 National Choreographers Initiative in Irvine, CA. Mr.

Wevers' new work, *Shindig*, premiered at PNB in 2008 and his piece *Ultimatum*, which PNB will present at Bumbershoot, has been selected to be part of the A.W.A.R.D. Show! 2009 at On the Boards. He is a recipient of the 2008 Artist Trust/Washington State Arts Commission Fellowship Award.

Kudos

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