

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2010

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PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET PRESENTS

DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

**Featuring works by
NACHO DUATO – JIRI KYLIAN – JEROME ROBBINS**

September 24-October 3, 2010

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

September 24-25 at 7:30 pm
September 25 at 2:00 pm
September 30 / October 1-2 at 7:30 pm
October 3 at 1:00 pm

SEATTLE, WA — Pacific Northwest Ballet raises the curtain for its 2010-2011 season, and presents the PNB premieres of two notable works, in **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE**, Artistic Director Peter Boal's annual mixed-bill of ballets by great choreographers of our time. Audiences held spellbound by its debut will applaud *Petite Mort's* return partnered by a second addition from Jiri Kylian's renowned "Black and White" series. Wickedly funny, *Sechs Tänze* (Six Dances) utilizes bubbles, powdered wigs, and rolling ball gowns to create Mozartian mayhem within a tour de force of musicality and expression. Also new to PNB, Jerome Robbins' *Glass Pieces* demonstrates the renowned choreographer's matchless intuition for group dynamics via the streaming pedestrian pathways formed by dozens of lycra-clad dancers. Set to three compositions by Phillip Glass, Robbins creates poetry from repetition, making each alteration in pace and pattern ingeniously effective. Rounding out this abundantly textured program is audience-favorite *Jardí Tancat*, Nacho Duato's powerful signature work danced to traditional Catalan songs.

DIRECTOR'S CHOICE runs September 24 through October 3 at Seattle Center's Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. Tickets start at \$27 and may be purchased by calling 206.441.2424, online at www.pnb.org, or in person at the PNB Box Office at 301 Mercer St. Pacific Northwest Ballet thanks presenting sponsor The Boeing Company, and community partner Wells Fargo, for their support of **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE**.

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

Petite Mort

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

PNB Premiere: November 5, 2009

Running time: 17 minutes

Choreographer Jiri Kilian created *Petite Mort* for the Salzburg Festival in commemoration of the second centenary of Mozart's death. This piece is set to two of Mozart's most beautiful and popular piano concertos, and 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 five black baroque dresses, which at times appear to exist separately from the dancers and at others to be molded to their bodies. *Petite Mort* was enthusiastically received by PNB audiences when it made its Seattle premiere as part of the 2009-2010 DIRECTOR'S CHOICE program.

The 2009 PNB premiere of *Petite Mort* was underwritten by Jeffrey & Susan Brotman and Peter & Peggy Horvitz.

***Sechs Tänze (Six Dances)* – PNB Premiere**

Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (*Sechs Deutsche Tänze [Six German Dances]*, KV 571, 1789)

Choreography: Jiri Kylian

Staging: Roslyn Anderson

Scenic and Costume Design: Jiri Kylian

Lighting Design: Joop Caboort

Lighting Supervision: Kees Tjebbes

Premiere: August 24, 1986; Nederlands Dans Theater (Amsterdam)

Running time: 13 minutes

The dresses are back, as PNB presents a second ballet from Jiri Kilian's renowned "Black and White" series. Choreographer Jiri Kylian has written: "Two centuries separate us from the time Mozart wrote his German Dances—an historical period shaped considerably by wars, revolutions, and all sorts of upheavals. With this mind, I found it impossible to simply create different dance numbers reflecting merely the humor and musical brilliance of the composer. Instead, I have set six seemingly nonsensical acts, which obviously ignore their surroundings. They are dwarfed in the face of the ever present troubled world, which most of us for some unspecified reason carry in our souls.

"Although the entertaining quality of Mozart's *Sechs Tänze* enjoys great general popularity, it shouldn't only be regarded as a burlesque. Its humor ought to serve as a vehicle to point towards our relative values. Mozart's ability to react upon difficult circumstances with a self-preserving outburst of nonsensical poetry is well known."

“Jiri Kylian’s *Sechs Tänze* is completely and refreshingly unexpected,” said Peter Boal. “What astounds me about *Sechs Tänze*, as does all of Kylian’s choreography, is its tight marriage to music. Mozart’s notes pair seamlessly with Kylian’s movement. He is a choreographer of astounding creativity and craftsmanship.” The PNB premiere of *Sechs Tänze* (Six Dances) is generously underwritten by Jeffrey & Susan Brotman.

Jardí Tancat

Music: Songs based on Catalan folk tales, composed and sung by Maria del Mar Bonet (1981)

Choreography: Nacho Duato

Staging: Hilde Koch

Costume Design: Nacho Duato

Lighting Design: Nicolas Fischtel

Premiere: December 19, 1983; Nederlands Dans Theater

PNB Premiere: February 27, 1996

Running time: 19 minutes

Spanish choreographer Nacho Duato created his first work, *Jardí Tancat*, in 1983 while he was a member of the Nederlands Dans Theater. *Jardí Tancat* (“Closed Garden”) is based on Catalan folk tales collected and sung by Maria del Mar Bonet. With a sweet, yet passionate, melancholy, these folksongs tell the story of the people who work the barren land, praying to God for the rain that does not come and enduring with great spirit in the face of hardship:

*Water, we have asked for water
And You, Oh Lord, You gave us wind
And You turn Your back on us
As though You will not listen to us*

Though *Jardí Tancat* was choreographed for classically trained dancers, its movement vocabulary is strikingly individual—and an exciting challenge for the PNB artists charged with communicating the work’s powerful feeling.

“*Jardí Tancat* is often mentioned as a favorite contemporary work by both our audiences and our dancers,” said Peter Boal. “Though PNB has performed the piece on tour numerous times over the past five years, this is the first time we will have performed it on the McCaw Hall stage since my first year here.” (Audience members who can’t get enough of *Jardí Tancat* can see it again when PNB performs a mixed rep at the Royal Theatre in Vancouver, B.C., October 15 and 16.)

***Glass Pieces* – PNB Premiere**

Music: Philip Glass (“Rubric” and “Façades” from *Glassworks*, 1981; “Funeral” from *Akhmaten*, 1983)

Choreography: Jerome Robbins

Staging: Jean-Pierre Frohlich

Scenic Design: Jerome Robbins and Ronald Bates

Costume Design: Ben Benson

Lighting Design: Jennifer Tipton

Premiere: May 12, 1983; New York City Ballet

Running time: 26 minutes

Jerome Robbins’ *Glass Pieces* is a ballet set to three works by American minimalist composer Philip Glass. Capturing the feel of urban America in the ‘80s, Robbins deploys 42 dancers with

power and momentum to create a tour de force combining music, movement, colorful costumes, and atmospheric lighting. *New York Times* critic Anna Kisselgoff called *Glass Pieces* “one of those landmark Robbins ballets in which the choreographer so shrewdly and penetratingly translates the temper of our times.”

The PNB premiere of Jerome Robbins' *Glass Pieces* is generously underwritten by Glenn Kawasaki.

About the Artists

Nacho Duato was born in Valencia, Spain, in 1957, and started professional ballet training with the Rambert School in London at eighteen. He expanded his studies at Maurice Béjart's Mudra School in Brussels and completed his dance education at Alvin Ailey American Dance Centre in New York. In 1980, Duato signed his first professional contract with Cullberg Ballet in Stockholm, and a year later Jiri Kylian brought him to Nederlands Dans Theater in Holland.

As a dancer he received the 1987 VSCD Gouden Dansprijs (Golden Dance Award), but soon looked beyond a dance career and turned to choreography. His first attempt, *Jardí Tancat* (1983), won first prize at the Internationaler Choreographischer Wettbewerb at Cologne. In 1988, Duato was named Resident Choreographer for Nederlands Dans Theater, working alongside Hans van Manen and Jiri Kylian. His numerous choreographic awards include the French Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (1995), Spain's Gold Medal for Merit in the Fine Arts (1998), the Benois de la Danse, and the 2003 National Dance Award.

Duato's ballets are in the repertoire of international companies such as Cullberg Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Deutsche Oper Ballet, Australian Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, Finnish Opera Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Royal Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Paris Opera Ballet, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. At the invitation of the Spanish Ministry of Culture, Nacho Duato served as Artistic Director of the Compañía Nacional de Danza from 1990-2010. As of January 2011, Duato will assume his new position as chief choreographer of the Mikhailovski Ballet Company in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Jiri Kylian was born in Prague in 1947. He began his dance studies at the School of the National Ballet, and was accepted at the Prague Conservatory at age fifteen. 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, John Cranko, a major choreographer of this period and director of the Stuttgart Ballet, offered him a contract and encouraged Kylian's ambition to create his own dance works. His first work, *Paradox*, was choreographed for the Noverre Society.

After creating three ballets for Nederlands Dans Theater, Kylian became artistic director of the company in 1975, and in 1978, he put NDT on the international map with *Sinfonietta*. That same year, he founded NDT II, which serves to give young dancers the opportunity to develop their skills and talents. He also initiated NDT III in 1991, for mature dancers. After an extraordinary record of service, Kylian handed over the artistic leadership in 1999, but remained associated to the dance company as house choreographer.

Kylian's work is performed all over the world by more than 80 companies and schools. In the course of his career Kylian's many international awards and honours include Officer of the Royal Dutch Order of Orange-Nassau, honorary doctorate of the Juilliard School in New York, three Nijinsky Awards in Monte Carlo (best choreographer, company and work), Benois de la

Danse in Moscow and Berlin, Honorary Medal from the President of the Czech Republic, and Chevalier du Légion d'Honneur in France. In 2008 he received the Golden Lion at Venice Biennale and the Medal for Art and Science of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix.

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*, and *Ives, Songs*, which are in the repertoires of New York City Ballet and other 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*, Robbins received four Tony Awards, five Donaldson Awards, two Emmy Awards, the Screen Directors' Guild Award, and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. He was a 1981 Kennedy Center Honors Recipient and was awarded the French Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur. Robbins died in 1998.

Tickets, Discount Offers and Special Events

TICKET INFORMATION:

Ticket range: \$27-\$165

(Money-saving season *subscriptions starting at \$165* are also currently 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)

PNB Online: www.pnb.org (24 hours a day, seven days a week)

Tickets are also available 90 minutes prior to each performance at McCaw Hall, located at 321 Mercer Street, subject to availability.

FIRST LOOK 2010

Friday, September 24, 2010

Celebrate PNB's 2010-2011 Season with a festive evening of dinner, dance and music. Before the curtain rises on opening night of DIRECTOR'S CHOICE, share in the excitement of a new season with an elegant black tie dinner. After the performance, revel backstage at the Onstage Dance Party. To purchase tickets to this celebratory evening, please contact PNB's Special Events Department at 206.441.2429, or at events@pnb.org.

STUDENT AND SENIOR RUSH TICKETS

Half-price rush tickets for students and senior citizens (65+) may be purchased in-person with ID, beginning 90 minutes prior to show time at the McCaw Hall box office. Subject to availability.

\$15 TICKETS FOR AGE 25 & UNDER

All Thursday and Friday performances: September 24 and 30, and October 1 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

September 24, 30 and October 1 performances only. Offer is subject to availability and not valid on previously purchased tickets. Each attendee must present valid I.D. upon ticket retrieval.

TEEN TIX

PNB is a proud participant of Seattle Center's **Teen Tix** program. Young people 13 to 19 years old can 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 to **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE** 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

Friday, September 17, 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. Tickets, \$10 each, 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. *Note: This event will sell out in advance!* Friday Previews are sponsored by U.S. Bank.

CONVERSATIONS WITH PNB — FREE

Sunday, September 19, 2:00 pm

Elliott Bay Book Company, 1521 10th Avenue on Capitol Hill, Seattle

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

BALLET PREVIEW — FREE

Tuesday, September 21, 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

Thursday, September 23, 2010

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

Dress Rehearsal 7:00 pm, *McCaw Hall*

Join PNB artistic staff, choreographers, and/or stagers 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 ballet to the stage. One hour before performances. **FREE** for ticketholders.

POST-PERFORMANCE Q&A

Skip the post-show 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.

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Pacific Northwest Ballet thanks presenting sponsor The Boeing Company, and community partner Wells Fargo, for their support of **DIRECTOR'S CHOICE**. PNB's 2010-2011 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.

Publicity Contact

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Schedule and programming subject to change. For further information, please visit www.pnb.org.

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