



PETER BOAL, DIRECTOR

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The stars of tomorrow, on stage today!

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET SCHOOL PRESENTS

Saturday, June 18, 2011: A DAY OF DANCE

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

321 Mercer Street, Seattle Center

The 30th Annual PNB School Performance

Featuring George Balanchine's *Western Symphony*

and the world premiere of *Menuet & Allegros* by Paul Gibson

1:30 pm

NEXT STEP

(The performance formerly known as Choreographers' Showcase)

Eight world premieres created by PNB Company dancers for PNB School Professional Division students

7:00 pm

And between the performances: The Third Annual PNB School Celebration Dinner

**Both performances will also feature Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra,
under the direction of conductor Stephen Rogers Radcliffe**

SEATTLE, WA –While Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2010-2011 season draws to a close with the Season Encore Performance on June 12, audiences don't have to go into dance withdrawal for at least another week. On **Saturday, June 18**, Pacific Northwest Ballet presents two full programs of dance, featuring the talented students of the Pacific Northwest Ballet School. The **30th Annual School Performance** will be presented at 1:30 pm, featuring students of all levels performing original works by PNB School faculty, designed to showcase the students' skills and accomplishments over the past year. PNB School's most advanced students will perform George Balanchine's *Western Symphony*. Music for *Western Symphony* will be performed live by the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Stephen Rogers Radcliffe. Audiences will also see the world premiere of *Menuet & Allegros*, choreographed by PNB Ballet Master Paul Gibson to six Mozart symphonies. Later that evening, PNB continues its tradition of innovation and commitment to nurturing and presenting new choreography with **NEXT STEP** (formerly Choreographers' Showcase), presented at 7:00 pm. This program features eight world premieres choreographed by PNB Company dancers and performed by PNB School's Professional Division students. Music for select pieces in **NEXT STEP** will also be performed live by the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra. In between, for audience members taking full advantage of the two-performance Day of Dance

and needing nutritional sustenance, PNB School will hold its **Third Annual School Celebration Dinner** at Prelude restaurant in McCaw Hall. The Celebration Dinner honors and commemorates the successes of PNB School students over the past year. All three events take place at Seattle Center's Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. Tickets may be purchased from the PNB Box Office: 206.441.2424, online at pnb.org, or in person at 301 Mercer Street. (See TICKET & SHOWTIME INFORMATION below for more details.)

"School Performance offers the opportunity to see the extraordinary range of accomplishment from our gifted students of all ages," says PNB School director Peter Boal. "The simplest of movements are executed with the utmost precision by our youngest, while the top tier performs complicated choreography with ease and brio."

"This is the first time, perhaps anywhere, that a world-class orchestra training program has partnered with a world-class dance training program to co-present staged productions," adds Stephen Rogers Radcliffe, Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra music director. "The bridging of these two previously distinct training programs will enrich the outstanding educational offerings at PNB and SYSO, deepen understanding and appreciation for both creative disciplines, and work to build future audiences for both symphonic music and dance."

30th Annual Pacific Northwest Ballet School Performance

Pacific Northwest Ballet School's **30th Annual School Performance** features Levels I-VIII and DanceChance students performing programs designed to showcase their skills and accomplishments over the past year. The performance will also feature Professional Division students performing the world premiere of *Menuet & Allegros* by PNB Ballet Master Paul Gibson, and George Balanchine's *Western Symphony*. Created in 1954 to a specially commissioned score of popular American tunes, *Western Symphony* was George Balanchine's first "American" ballet—his first classical treatment of American subject matter. Balanchine choreographed a formal ballet danced by cowboys and saloon girls, a rollicking neo-classical hoe-down showing indisputably that the venerable ballet vocabulary could be inflected with the brash spirit of the American frontier.

"The classical movements capture the zip of a barn dance, the showoff tactics of cowboys, the high-kicking antics of saloon girls, the teasingly elusive activities of a coquette, and the romping zest of young men and women with space to move in and with the gusto to fill that space with aerial displays, brisks steps, and intricate designs." –Walter Terry, *New York Herald Tribune*

"It's completely exhausting. The only way to get through it is to dance like hell, as though the floor were on fire." –Violette Verdy, former NYCB dancer

Western Symphony

Music: Hershy Kay

Choreography: George Balanchine © The George Balanchine Trust

Staging: Peter Boal, assisted by Marisa Albee and Dana Hanson

Scenic Design: John Boyt

Costume Design: Karinska

Lighting Design: Randall G. Chiarelli

***Menuet & Allegros* - World Premiere**

Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Choreography: Paul Gibson

Costumes: Larae Hascall and PNB Costume Shop
Lighting Design: Randall G. Chiarelli

Third Annual PNB School Celebration Dinner

Planning to attend both the School Performance and NEXT STEP and need a bite to eat between the two? Join us for the Third Annual PNB School Celebration Dinner, beginning immediately following the School Performance with a cocktail reception at 4:30 pm in Prelude restaurant at McCaw Hall. This celebratory event will commemorate the successes of PNB School and its students over the past year.

NEXT STEP

PNB furthers dance innovation with NEXT STEP (formerly Choreographers' Showcase) featuring eight new works by the next generation of choreographers. PNB School's Professional Division students will take the stage once more, in a program of choreography created for them by PNB Company dancers: Andrew Bartee, Kiyon Gaines, Barry Kerollis, Margaret Mullin, Seth Orza, Sean Rollofson, Price Suddarth, and Ezra Thomson. Select works will feature the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra. (See DETAILS below for bios of choreographers).

TICKET & SHOWTIME INFORMATION

All three events take place on Saturday, June 18, 2011 at McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center.

Pacific Northwest Ballet School's **30th Annual School Performance** will be presented at 1:30 pm. Tickets to the School Performance are \$25-\$65 for adults, \$15-\$65 for youths (17 and younger.)

The **Third Annual PNB School Celebration Dinner** begins immediately following the School Performance with a cocktail reception at 4:30 pm. Tickets are \$65 for adults and \$45 for youths and PNB School students. Patrons can also sponsor a PNB School scholarship student to attend the benefit dinner held in their honor for just \$150 (includes one adult admittance). For more information about this event, contact Clare Hausmann at 206.441.3593 or chausmann@pnb.org.

NEXT STEP will be presented at 7:00 pm. Tickets to NEXT STEP are a steal at \$10-\$20.

Be sure to ask the Box Office for information about TEEN NIGHT, our teen-exclusive event on Wednesday, May 4 for an up-close preview of the cutting-edge new works being created for NEXT STEP. Tickets are only \$5 and there will be Trophy cupcakes! Attendees must be 13-19.

Tickets may be purchased through the PNB Box Office:

- Phone: 206. 441.2424 (Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm)
- In person: 301 Mercer St. (Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm)
- Online: pnb.org (24/7)
- 90 minutes prior to each performance (subject to availability) at McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Founded in 1974, Pacific Northwest Ballet School is recognized as one of the top 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.

PNB 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, and apprentices are drawn from the Professional Division. In addition to the School Performance, the annual production of *Nutcracker* gives students of all ages valuable performing experience.

In 1994, PNB School launched the **DanceChance** program with four partner schools, and has since been able to offer classical ballet training on full scholarship to over 950 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. Currently, DanceChance has 21 partner schools in Seattle and Bellevue. This year, 122 third and fourth grade students enrolled in DanceChance, selected from auditions of 1,600 students in the partner schools. DanceChance students are integrated into PNB School beginning at Level III. Currently, 35 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; currently four graduates have gone on to professional ballet careers.

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

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, **George Balanchine** (1904-1983) is regarded as the foremost contemporary choreographer in the world of ballet. He came to the United States in late 1933, at the age of 29, accepting the invitation of the young American arts patron Lincoln Kirstein (1907-96), whose great passions included the dream of creating a ballet company in America. At Balanchine's behest, Kirstein was also prepared to support the formation of an American academy of ballet that would eventually rival the long-established schools of Europe. This was the School of American Ballet, founded in 1934, the first product of the Balanchine-Kirstein collaboration. Several ballet companies directed by the two were created and dissolved in the years that followed, while Balanchine found other outlets for his choreography. Eventually, with a performance on October 11, 1948, the New York City Ballet was born. Balanchine served as its ballet master and principal choreographer from 1948 until his death. A major artistic figure of the twentieth century, Balanchine revolutionized the look of classical ballet. Taking classicism as his base, he heightened, quickened, expanded, streamlined, and even inverted the fundamentals of the 400-year-old language of academic dance. This had an inestimable influence on the growth of dance in America. Although at first his style seemed particularly suited to the energy and speed of American dancers, especially those he trained, his ballets are now performed by all the major classical ballet companies throughout the world.

Paul Gibson joined PNB in 1994 and was promoted to Principal in 1996. Upon his retirement in 2004, he was named Assistant Ballet Master. His choreographic work includes ballets for PNB and PNB School, San Francisco Ballet School, the San Francisco Ballet Choreographic Workshop, Allegheny Ballet Company and the New York Choreographic Institute. Originally from Altoona, Pennsylvania, Mr. Gibson trained at

Allegheny Ballet Academy and the School of American Ballet. He won a scholarship at San Francisco Ballet School and joined San Francisco Ballet in 1988, where he rose to the rank of soloist. Mr. Gibson assists the Artistic Director in teaching, rehearsing and the scheduling the Company and rehearsing PNB School students in their roles for Company productions.

With a 68-year tradition of excellence and innovation in arts education, the **Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestras** (SYSO), under the leadership of Conductor and Music Director Stephen Rogers Radcliffe, brings life-changing musical experiences to thousands of families throughout the Puget Sound. SYSO is the largest youth orchestra training program in the America, serving over 1,100 diverse students each year through four full orchestras, three summer festival programs and a nationally recognized partnership with local public schools. SYSO's flagship orchestra, the Seattle Youth Symphony, is made up of the finest young musicians in the region, and its annual Benaroya Hall concert season presents professional caliber performances that are infused with the unrivaled energy and passion of youthful artistry. Internationally recognized guest conductors and soloists frequently perform with the orchestra, and its distinguished graduates and alumni can be found in major symphony orchestras in America and abroad.

Andrew Barte is from Everett, Washington. He studied on scholarship at Pacific Northwest Ballet School and attended summer courses at PNB School and the School of American Ballet. He was the first recipient of the Flemming Halby Exchange with the Royal Danish Ballet School and a 2007 Princess Grace Award recipient. Mr. Barte joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as an apprentice in 2008 and was promoted to corps de ballet in 2009. This is his second work for the NEXT STEP choreographic showcase.

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 accomplished 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*. This is his eighth contribution to the NEXT STEP choreographic showcase.

Barry Kerollis is from Downingtown, Pennsylvania. He 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 PNB as a corps member. This is his third contribution to the NEXT STEP choreographic showcase.

Margaret Mullin is from Tucson, Arizona. She studied on scholarship at Ballet Arts Tucson with Mary-Beth Cabana and at Pacific Northwest Ballet School, and attended summer courses at Ballet Tucson, Pacific Northwest Ballet School, and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp with Jefferson Baum. She was the recipient of a Thurber Scholarship Award in 2003 and 2004, and the 2007 Founding Director Scholarship Award from Angela Whitehill of Burklyn Ballet. Ms. Mullin joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as an apprentice in 2008 and was promoted to corps de ballet in 2009. This is her second contribution to the NEXT STEP choreographic showcase.

Seth Orza is from San Francisco, California. He trained at San Francisco Ballet School and on full scholarship at the School of American Ballet. In 1999, he joined New York City Ballet as an apprentice. He became a corps de ballet member in 2000, and in 2007 he was promoted to soloist. Mr. Orza joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet in 2007 and was promoted to soloist in 2008 and principal in 2010. This is his second contribution to the NEXT STEP choreographic showcase.

Sean Rollofson is from Redmond, Washington. He studied with Deborah Hadley at Washington Academy of Performing Arts and began attending Pacific Northwest Ballet School at age seven. He attended summer courses at the National Ballet School (Toronto) and on scholarship at the School of American Ballet. Mr. Rollofson joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as an apprentice in 2008 and was promoted to corps de ballet in 2009. NEXT STEP marks his PNB choreographic debut.

Price Suddarth is from Westfield, Indiana. He studied at Central Indiana Dance Ensemble, the School of American Ballet, and Pacific Northwest Ballet School, and he attended summer courses on scholarship at Pacific Northwest Ballet School, the Rock School, the School of American Ballet, and Miami City Ballet. Mr. Suddarth joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as an apprentice in 2010. NEXT STEP marks his choreographic debut.

Ezra Thomson is from San Bernardino, California. He studied on scholarship at Riverside Ballet Arts, Orlando Ballet School, and Pacific Northwest Ballet School and attended summer courses at Pacific Northwest Ballet School, the School of American Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, National Ballet School (Canada), the Rock School, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, and Burklyn Ballet Theatre. Mr. Thomson was a 2009 recipient of the Flemming Halby Exchange with the Royal Danish Ballet School. He danced with Orlando Ballet before joining Pacific Northwest Ballet as an apprentice in 2009. He was promoted to corps de ballet in 2010. NEXT STEP marks his choreographic debut.

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