



**Peter Boal**  
Artistic Director

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET PRESENTS**

Stowell & Sendak  
**Nutcracker**  
25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**November 28 – December 30, 2008**

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall  
321 Mercer Street  
Seattle, WA 98109

Music by P.I. Tchaikovsky  
Choreography by Kent Stowell  
Scenic and Costume Design by Maurice Sendak  
Lighting Design by Randall G. Chiarelli

*"Experiencing the joy of **Nutcracker** can fortify you for the hectic demands of the holiday. It slows it all down for a minute (but not slow enough to lose the attention of the younger children in the audience), and leaves you tuned to what is genuine and beautiful in this season."*

*-- Mary Murfin Bayley, *The Seattle Times* (2006)*

**Seattle, WA** - Pacific Northwest Ballet's cherished **Stowell/Sendak *Nutcracker*** celebrates its 25th (Silver) Anniversary November 28 – December 30, 2008, with showers of shimmering snow. Special guests, surprise appearances and McCaw Hall glistening with light and merriment promise this year's ***Nutcracker*** will be the most festive event of the season. Created by PNB Founding Artistic Director Kent Stowell and world-famous children's author and illustrator Maurice Sendak (*Where the Wild Things Are*), ***Nutcracker*** brilliantly blends lavish sets and costumes, wondrous choreography, and Tchaikovsky's perennially popular music performed by the acclaimed PNB Orchestra to create a magical storybook world enjoyed by children and adults alike.

See "Just the Facts" at the end of this press release for a complete schedule of performances. Tchaikovsky's classic 1892 score will be conducted at various performances by PNB Music Director/Conductor Stewart Kershaw and Associate Conductor Allan Dameron, as well as guest conductors Ian Eisendrath of Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre and Seattle Symphony Associate Conductor Carolyn Kuan. Tickets to ***Nutcracker*** start at \$24 and may be purchased by contacting 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 Street** at Seattle Center. Day-of-show tickets are sold (subject to availability) 90 minutes prior to each performance at McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street. Tickets are also available at any Ticketmaster outlet, by calling 206.292-ARTS or online at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com). **PLEASE NOTE:** *No other ticket outlets are authorized to sell Pacific Northwest Ballet ***Nutcracker*** tickets.*

## TICKET DISCOUNT OPTIONS

Discounts are available for children 12 and under and for groups of 15 or more. For group tickets, contact **Group Sales** Manager Julie Jamieson at 206.441-2416 or juliej@pnb.org. Families, friends and co-workers can also create their group sales (saving up to 25% off regular Nutcracker prices, depending on performance date, time and seating location) by using PNB's Online Group Builder at [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org).

**Nutcracker Family Packs** are specially priced to include four discounted **Nutcracker** tickets and coupons to be redeemed at McCaw Hall for cider and cookies. Family Packs are available for all **Nutcracker** performances and may be purchased only through PNB, in person or by phone at 206.441.2424.

**Give the Gift of Dance with PNB's Family Series:** PNB is offering a Family Series that includes discounted tickets to three ballets: the cherished **Nutcracker** (select dates only), the classic children's tale *Pinocchio* (February 7 - 8), and the entertaining BROADWAY FESTIVAL (March 12 - 22). These family-friendly performances are a lasting gift that can be enjoyed for months and remembered for a lifetime. Packages start at \$83. Please contact the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424 for more information or to purchase PNB's Family Series.

**Donate to Northwest Harvest!** PNB and GoMobile Advertising are teaming up to collect food for Northwest Harvest this holiday season. Donate to Northwest Harvest through PNB or at the GoMobile Nutcracker Truck and save 15% off select **Nutcracker** performances. Check [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org) to see where the Nutcracker Truck is collecting or visit the PNB Box Office in person at 301 Mercer Street to make a difference this holiday season.

**Fulfill Wishes with Sharing Gift Box!** PNB is partnering with Seattle Center's Sharing Gift Box to help fill wishes of children, teens and seniors. Go to [www.seattlecenter.org](http://www.seattlecenter.org) and find out how to make someone's wishes come true while receiving a discount coupon code worth 15% off select **Nutcracker** performances.

**Visit Ivar's or Kidd Valley!** From mid-November through December 30, neighborhood Ivar's and Kidd Valley restaurants are offering coupons to save 15% on select **Nutcracker** performances, as well as a Nutcracker coloring contest for free **Nutcracker** tickets.

## MORE ABOUT PNB'S **NUTCRACKER**

*"I have seen the designs for your Nutcracker by Maurice Sendak. I thought they were absolutely magnificent and I was filled with a violent greed and envy."*

-- Lincoln Kirstein, co-founder of New York City Ballet, in a note to Kent Stowell

Pacific Northwest Ballet can proudly lay claim to one of the world's most recognized and celebrated productions of *Nutcracker*. The brilliant result of close collaboration between PNB Founding Artistic Director and choreographer Kent Stowell and renowned children's book author and illustrator Maurice Sendak, PNB's **Nutcracker** premiered to national acclaim on December 13, 1983 at Seattle Center's Opera House. ("Forget the Space Needle, forget the Ring Cycle, forget Mt. Rainier – this *Nutcracker* alone is worth a trip to Seattle." – *Newsweek*)

Slightly darker and more exotic than traditional productions, PNB's **Nutcracker** explores the world through the eyes of a child on the cusp of adulthood and blurs the line between fantasy and reality, sweeping audiences along with Clara into her enchanting dream world full of memorable characters and peculiar happenings. Drawing on E.T.A. Hoffman's 1816 story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King," Stowell and Sendak delved deeply into the original story, infusing the ballet with a drama and strength that fully complements Tchaikovsky's rich score and creating a kaleidoscope of roles for all levels of the PNB Company and School.

Sendak's larger-than-life designs call for more than 115 different props, including a 27-foot Mouse King puppet made of 17 moving pieces and an awe-inspiring 950-pound Christmas

tree, with over 1,000 miniature light bulbs, that grows from 14 to 28 feet in height. Behind the scenes nearly 40 stage hands are busy at work attending to every technical detail to complete the multi-layered visual feast: rigging a stage full of frothy waves with leaping dolphins, maneuvering the sets in the mysterious Pasha's Kingdom and dusting more than 200 pounds of "snow" throughout each of the performances. Taking the stage are PNB's entire company of professional dancers, 26 Professional Division students and over 200 students from Pacific Northwest Ballet School (including 31 graduates of DanceChance, PNB's innovative outreach program) in roles that range from baby mice to toy soldiers to the coveted role of young Clara. Working behind the scenes with PNB School students are 75 parent volunteers (25 at each performance) assisting younger performers with hair and make-up. PNB's **Nutcracker** has over 190 costumes, comprised of approximately 700 different pieces, and dancers wear out about 500 pairs of pointe shoes during the show's run.

## NUTTY FAMILY FUN

**Opening Weekend Extravaganza:** Join Pacific Northwest Ballet on Opening Weekend, November 28 – 30, for a joyous kick-off to the holiday season! Opening Weekend attendees will be treated to strolling carolers and entertainers, free **Nutcracker** buttons, crafts for children, ballet mini-classes and costumed **Nutcracker** characters.

**PNB Kids Club:** Visit [www.pnb.org/kids](http://www.pnb.org/kids) and explore the world of **Nutcracker** at McCaw Hall with photos, coloring pages, puzzles, fun facts, events for children, and more!

**PNB Nutcracker Brunch:** Join the PNB League at 9:30 am on Saturday, November 29 for a fun-filled holiday event designed for younger children and their families, hosted by principal dancer Louise Nadeau and her daughter Emma. Enjoy activities for kids, a delicious brunch and a special **Nutcracker**-themed mini-performance to delight the young and young-at-heart alike. Brunch tickets may be purchased through the PNB Box Office by calling 206.441.2424. For more information about this annual sell-out event, e-mail [events@pnb.org](mailto:events@pnb.org).

**Trimming the Tree:** Create your own **Nutcracker** Tree with the Sunday Seattle Times and Post-Intelligencer. Beginning November 9, look for PNB's **Nutcracker** Tree in the Sunday paper, then all week long cut out and color ornaments located throughout the Seattle Times and Seattle P-I to create a one-of-a-kind tree. All entries will be displayed in McCaw Hall and one lucky artist will win a magical weekend in Seattle for four, including **Nutcracker** tickets, a backstage tour, hotel accommodations at The Westin, and dinner at Ivar's. For details, check out the Seattle Times or Seattle Post-Intelligencer beginning November 9.

**Instrument Petting Zoo:** Join 98.1 Classical KING FM in the lobby of McCaw Hall during select **Nutcracker** performance dates for the widely popular Instrument Petting Zoo. Kids of all ages will have the chance to play with the classical instruments that power the soundtrack to their favorite ballet. Go to [www.king.org](http://www.king.org) for more information.

## WHAT'S NEW IN '08

**The Nutcracker Bush:** No secular holiday symbols here! Rising nearly 20 feet inside McCaw Hall's main entrance, PNB's first-ever Nutcracker Bush (okay, it's a tree) has been created by Botanical Designs especially for PNB's **Nutcracker**. Families and friends will want to bring their cameras and have their holiday pictures taken in front of the Nutcracker Tree, decorated in silver and snow to commemorate the 25th (Silver) Anniversary of **Nutcracker**. (But put those cameras away once you're seated in the auditorium: The use of photographic and recording equipment during the performance is strictly prohibited.) Speaking of photos...

**New Location for Professional Portraits with Nutcracker:** Visit the Second Tier for a photography sitting with the Nutcracker by Mirror Image Studios.

**The Flair “Nut” Project:** In honor of the 25th Anniversary and the 1,000th performance of *Nutcracker*, Pacific Northwest Ballet has created 25 collectible buttons – 1,000 each – featuring images from Maurice Sendak’s illustrations and scenic designs. Button aficionados are encouraged to collect and trade these 1,000-of-a-kind souvenirs, which will be distributed free-of-charge at random locations around the city. (Hint: Look for the GoMobile Nutcracker Truck, ballerinas roaming the aisles at Pacific Place during its nightly 6:00 pm snowfall, and Pacific Northwest Ballet School’s Professional Division students accompanying the PNB *Nutcracker* balloon float in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade in downtown Seattle.) Rabid button fans who feel the need to own all 25 “pieces of flair” (in the parlance of the film *Office Space*) may also purchase a complete set at Amusements, the McCaw Hall gift shop.

### TUNE IN TO *NUTCRACKER* ON RADIO AND TV

**98.1 Classical KING FM:** For the first time ever, 98.1 Classical KING FM 98.1 will broadcast a performance of Pacific Northwest Ballet’s *Nutcracker*, performed by the PNB Orchestra under the direction of Music Director/Conductor Stewart Kershaw at 7:00 pm on Christmas Eve. For more details and programming schedule, visit [www.king.org](http://www.king.org).

**Ovation TV’s Battle of the Nutcrackers:** Ovation TV, the network dedicated to art, culture and creativity, brings the most spirited artistic battle to television viewers: “Battle of the Nutcrackers – Grudge Match.” After its triumphant debut in 2007, Ovation TV is stepping up the competition with this year’s programming event by including six diverse productions of the beloved holiday classic. Once again, viewers will be asked to crown their favorite with their online votes at [www.OvationTV.com](http://www.OvationTV.com). Hosted by Mark Morris, choreographer of last year’s favorite production “The Hard Nut,” the “Battle of the Nutcrackers – Grudge Match” kicks off Sunday, November 30 at 8:00 pm ET/PT. PNB’s “*Nutcracker: The Motion Picture*,” long unavailable on video and never released on DVD, will have its Ovation TV premiere, facing off against five worthy competitors, including:

- Mark Morris’s “The Hard Nut” – Last year’s reigning champ, back to defend its title
- “George Balanchine’s Nutcracker” – starring Macauley Culkin and featuring the New York City Ballet
- “Matthew Bourne’s Nutcracker!”
- “Bolshoi Ballet: The Nutcracker”
- “Bejart’s Nutcracker”

Viewers will be able to see clips of “Nutcracker” performances online at [www.OvationTV.com](http://www.OvationTV.com) before they cast their final votes. The Viewers’ Choice will be aired on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24 at 8:00 pm ET/PT and a Christmas Day marathon featuring all six Nutcrackers will kick off at 8:00 am ET/PT.

### HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS FROM PNB

**Holiday Shopping at Amusements Gift Shop:** Find a captivating array of unique gifts for everyone on your list – or yourself – at Amusements Gift Shop at McCaw Hall (open before, during and after performances) or PNB’s Online Gift Shop at [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org) (open 24/7). Bring the memories and magic of PNB’s *Nutcracker* home with a wide selection of books, music, decorations, apparel and, of course, nutcrackers.

**PNB School’s 6th Annual Winter Wonderland Ball:** Join us on Sunday, January 25 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm for Pacific Northwest Ballet School’s Winter Wonderland Ball. Festivities will include dance lessons, live music, delicious food, a silent auction and appearances by PNB Company dancers in the beautifully decorated Francia Russell Center, 13440 NE 16th Street in Bellevue. Tickets to the Ball make a great holiday gift for families with youngsters, and all proceeds benefit Pacific Northwest Ballet School. For tickets and more information, contact PNB Special Events at 206.441.3597 or [events@pnb.org](mailto:events@pnb.org).

**Family Matinee Series – World Premiere of PINOCCHIO:** *Pinocchio*, a narrated one-act ballet, is the third installment in PNB's Special Family Matinee Series. Like our past productions of *Snow White* and *Hansel & Gretel*, it is performed by nearly sixty Pacific Northwest Ballet School students under the direction of Bruce Wells. (*Pinocchio* does not feature PNB Company dancers). *Pinocchio* will have three matinee performances especially for children: Saturday, February 7 at 1:00 pm, and Sunday, February 8 at 12:00 noon and 3:30 pm at McCaw Hall. Tickets may be purchased through the PNB Box Office, 206.441.2424 or [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org).

**PNBConditioning Gift Certificates:** Originally designed for Pacific Northwest Ballet's dancers and students, today PNBConditioning uses the Pilates method to help people from all walks of life strengthen and sculpt their bodies. PNBConditioning is offered at two locations, PNB's Phelps Center in Seattle and the Francia Russell Center in Bellevue. Call or write for information on gift certificates and how to begin a personal journey towards better physical and mental health: 206.441.2435 (Seattle), 425.451.1241 (Bellevue) or e-mail [pnbconditioning@pnb.org](mailto:pnbconditioning@pnb.org).

**The Gift of Entertainment:** Skip the hassle of shopping malls and gifts that don't fit or end up at the back of the closet. A gift of PNB tickets promises inspiration and entertainment for months to come and one-of-a-kind performances to remember for a lifetime, including George Balanchine's *Jewels*<sup>™</sup>, BROADWAY FESTIVAL, Kent Stowell's *Swan Lake* and the season-closing DIRECTOR'S CHOICE. PNB makes giving easy – We'll help create a three-, four- or five-performance package that includes fantastic subscriber benefits. Gift certificates are also available. Shopping for that unforgettable gift can be done in a snap. Call 206.441.2424.

## NUTCRACKER AND EDUCATION

"[Nutcracker] is the ballet that opened the door for me to the wonders of dance. It is the introduction for so many of us."

– Peter Boal, PNB artistic director

**DanceChance – Providing dance training opportunities for children since 1994:** Pacific Northwest Ballet's DanceChance program – aimed at students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to study dance – strives to reach into the community and discover talented Seattle and Bellevue-area third graders. Children who show they have the physical ability to become professional dancers are provided with classical training, allowing them the opportunity they might not otherwise have to pursue a dance career. Students attend classes twice a week on full tuition scholarship with dance attire, transportation and complimentary tickets to company performances provided. Currently in its fifteenth year, PNB's DanceChance program has reached yet another landmark: Thirty-one DanceChance graduates will dance in this year's **Nutcracker** performances. The excitement of this achievement was best described by one such student last year: *"The best day of my life was today, September 26, 2007! Our family drove the car all the way up to the ballet center. What felt like hours was really 20 minutes. I felt butterflies in my stomach the whole way. As a family we all went in to see where the list of the Nutcracker performers was posted. Once we found it, I started to go down the list as this was the biggest moment of my life. There it was . . . my name! I bursted out with tears of joy. I hugged my family and savored the moment as a jewel. My two year goal was fulfilled. I have never felt so proud of myself. I am really excited to start practicing for Nutcracker. I will perform in close to 20 performances in 2 months. I can't wait to be on stage!"*

**Student Matinees:** Each year PNB invites students in grades K - 12 to attend reduced-priced matinee performances of **Nutcracker** with their school. This year PNB is expecting to welcome over 8,000 children from 65 schools and organizations from around western Washington and Vancouver, B.C. for these performances. Matinees will be performed on Friday, December 5, Thursday, December 11, and Friday, December 12. All shows are at 12:00 noon, and include the show in its entirety. PNB's Community Education department is

also offering in-school pre-performance workshops for schools that attend matinees, which include exploration of movement, the *Nutcracker* story, and an up-close look at costumes. For more information on school performances, contact 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.

**JUST THE FACTS:**

**Pacific Northwest Ballet presents the 25TH Anniversary Production of NUTCRACKER**

*Music:* P.I. Tchaikovsky

*Choreography:* Kent Stowell

*Sets and Costumes:* Maurice Sendak

*Lighting Design:* Randall G. Chiarelli

*World Premiere:* Pacific Northwest Ballet, December 13, 1983

*Running Time:* Two hours

**TICKET INFORMATION:**

Ticket range: \$24-\$130 (Discounts available for children ages 0 – 12.)

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](http://www.pnb.org)

Ticketmaster: 206.292.ARTS or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

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

Group Sales: 206.441-2416 or e-mail [juliej@pnb.org](mailto:juliej@pnb.org).

**LOCATION:**

McCaw Hall is located on the Seattle Center campus at 321 Mercer St. Parking is available directly across the street at the Mercer Garage. Check the Seattle Center 24-hour traffic and event info line: 206.233.3989.

**PERFORMANCES:**

November 28-December 30, 2008 (42 performances)

DATE	MATINEE	EVENING
Friday, November 28		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 29	2:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 30	1:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
Friday, December 5	12:00 p.m.+	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 6	2:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.*
Sunday, December 7	1:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 11	12:00 p.m.+	7:30 p.m.
Friday, December 12	12:00 p.m.+	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 13	2:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 14	1:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 17		7:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 18	2:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Friday, December 19	2:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 20	2:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 21	1:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
Monday, December 22	2:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 23	2:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 24	12:00 noon	
Friday, December 26	2:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 27	2:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 28	1:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
Monday, December 29	1:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 30	1:00 p.m.	

\* *Sold Out performance.*

+ *School performances – Tickets not available to general public.*

Pacific Northwest Ballet's **Stowell/Sendak *Nutcracker*** is made possible in part thanks to generous sponsorship from The Boeing Company and Opening Weekend supporting sponsors Macy's, Bank of America & Moss Adams LLP. Major media partners are the Seattle Times and Seattle Post-Intelligencer and KING-5 TV. Thanks also to season sponsors Microsoft and The John Graham Foundation, as well as 4Culture, ArtsFund, Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Scandinavian Airlines and Washington State Arts Commission.

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***Programming subject to change. For further information, please visit: [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org).***

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**About Pacific Northwest Ballet**

Pacific Northwest Ballet, one of the largest and most highly regarded ballet companies in the United States, was founded in 1972. In July 2005, Peter Boal became Artistic Director, succeeding Kent Stowell and Francia Russell, Co-Artistic Directors since 1977. The Company of fifty-one dancers presents more than 100 performances each year of full-length and mixed repertory ballets at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall and on tour. The Company has toured to Europe, Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Canada and throughout the United States, with celebrated appearances at Jacob's Pillow and in New York City and Washington, DC.

Under the direction of Peter Boal, PNB has continued to expand and diversify its repertory to include works by Ulysses Dove, Susan Stroman, Mark Morris, Victor Quijada, Twyla Tharp, Christopher Wheeldon, Benjamin Millepied and others. A Spring Dance Festival was inaugurated in April 2007 with the theme Celebrate Seattle. The second festival, the Laugh Out Loud! Spring Dance Festival in April 2008, featured new and classic comedy ballets.

Founded in 1974, Pacific Northwest Ballet School, under the direction of Francia Russell since 1977 and now under Mr. Boal's direction, is nationally recognized as setting the standard for ballet training and offers a complete professional curriculum to over 950 students. The School also provides comprehensive dance education to the greater Seattle area and reaches over 10,000 adults and children each year through DanceChance, Discover Dance and other outreach programs and activities.

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET**

**301 Mercer Street • Seattle, WA 98109 • 206.441.9411 • fax: 206.441.2440 • [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org)**