



**Peter Boal**  
Artistic Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SEASON OPENER OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET'S "CONVERSATIONS WITH PNB" TO  
INCLUDE BOOK-SIGNING BY TWYLA THARP**

## **CONVERSATIONS WITH PNB**

**2:00 pm, September 21, 2008**

*Elliott Bay Book Company  
101 South Main St. in Pioneer Square  
Free admission*

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON – Pacific Northwest Ballet offers a variety of education events to enhance enjoyment and knowledge of ballet for its audiences. Its CONVERSATIONS WITH PNB series features hour-long Sunday afternoon conversations with PNB dancers and guests in the casual atmosphere of the reading room at The Elliott Bay Book Company. The 2008-2009 season's first CONVERSATION WITH PNB will be "Working with Twyla Tharp," featuring Tharp assistant and PNB guest artist Charlie Neshyba-Hodges, PNB Ballet Master Paul Gibson, and soloist Chalnessa Eames. **Following the conversation, Ms. Tharp will sign copies of her book "The Creative Habit"** (Simon & Schuster, 2003). This free event begins at 2:00 pm on Sunday, September 21, 2008. The Elliott Bay Book Company is located at 101 South Main Street at the corner of First and Main in Pioneer Square. For more information, visit [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org).

**Charlie Neshyba-Hodges** joined the international touring company Twyla Tharp Dance in 2002, followed by the First National Tour and Broadway casts of Tharp's *Movin' Out*, and later the Broadway musical *The Times They Are A-Changin'*. He has notated Ms. Tharp's choreography for archival purposes and served as an assistant for the past four years, traveling to New York, California, Washington, and Australia to stage her pieces. In addition to Ms. Tharp, Mr. Neshyba-Hodges has assisted choreographers Ron Cunningham, Dwight Rhoden (Complexions Contemporary Ballet), Amy Seiwert, and Alan Hinline.

**Paul Gibson** joined PNB in 1994 and was promoted to principal dancer in 1996. Upon his retirement in 2004, he was named Assistant Ballet Master, and has been Ballet Master since 2005. 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.

**Chalnessa Eames** is from Bellingham, Washington. She trained at Harid Conservatory in Boca Raton and the School of Royal Winnipeg Ballet and attended Pacific Northwest Ballet School's summer course. She joined Royal Winnipeg Ballet in 1996 and joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as a member of the corps de ballet in 2001. She was promoted to soloist in 2007.

**Twyla Tharp** has choreographed more than 125 dances, five Hollywood movies, directed and choreographed two Broadway shows, written two books, and received one Tony Award, two Emmy Awards, seventeen honorary doctorates, and numerous other awards. In 1965, Ms. Tharp founded the dance company Twyla Tharp Dance, for which she made 80 pieces, including *Nine Sinatra Songs* and *In the Upper Room*. In 1988, Twyla Tharp Dance merged with American Ballet Theatre, where Ms. Tharp created more than a dozen works. Since that time, Ms. Tharp has choreographed dances for

many companies, including Paris Opera Ballet, the Royal Ballet, New York City Ballet, Boston Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance, and the Martha Graham Dance Company. In 1991, Ms. Tharp regrouped Twyla Tharp Dance and the company has been touring internationally to critical acclaim since 1999. Ms. Tharp's work first went to Broadway in 1980 with *When We Were Very Young*. In 2002, Ms. Tharp's and Billy Joel's award-winning dance musical, *Movin'Out*, premiered on Broadway and a national tour opened in January 2004. In film, Ms. Tharp has collaborated with director Milos Forman on *Hair* (1978), *Ragtime* (1980) and *Amadeus* (1984); with Taylor Hackford on *White Nights* (1985); and with James Brooks on *I'll Do Anything* (1994). Ms. Tharp continues to create works and lecture around the world.

Located in the heart of the historic Pioneer Square District, Seattle's original business neighborhood, **The Elliott Bay Book Company** is home to over 150,000 titles, set on cedar shelves in a series of inviting, exposed-brick walled rooms. Elliott Bay offers a selection of both new and used books, including a number of antique and signed or limited editions. The Elliott Bay Café proudly serves organic food and coffee. For more information, visit [www.elliottbaybook.com](http://www.elliottbaybook.com).

**Pacific Northwest Ballet's** 2008-2009 season opener, *ALL THARP*, features three works by American dance icon Twyla Tharp. Tharp has permanently expanded the horizons of contemporary dance with her fusion of meticulous classical rigor and elements from jazz, modern dance, and pop culture. Her movement vocabulary—characterized by high energy, humor, and an unpredictable physical daring—is imbued with dynamic inventiveness and a singular musical intelligence. As a thrilling start to the season, PNB has commissioned two original works for its program that also welcomes the return of *Nine Sinatra Songs*, her delicious ballroom homage to Ol' Blue Eyes. *ALL THARP* runs September 25 – October 5, 2008 at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall at Seattle Center. For tickets or information, contact the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424 or online at [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org).

## **OTHER THARP SPECIAL EVENTS**

### LECTURE-DEMONSTRATION

Thursday, September 18, 5:30 – 7:00 pm  
*Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, Seattle Center*

Twyla Tharp will discuss her new works for PNB, with excerpts performed onstage by Company dancers. Ms. Tharp will also field questions from the audience. This special event is free for PNB's full season subscribers; subscribers may purchase additional tickets for \$15; general admission \$20.

### BALLET PREVIEW

Tuesday, September 23, 12:00 – 1:00 pm  
*Central Seattle Public Library, 1000 Fourth Avenue, Seattle*

Join PNB for a free lunchtime preview lecture at the Central Seattle Public Library. Education Programs Manager Doug Fullington will offer insights about *ALL THARP*, complete with video excerpts. FREE of charge.

### PNB LECTURE SERIES & DRESS REHEARSAL

Wednesday, September 24  
Lecture 6:00–6:50 p.m., *Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall*  
Dress Rehearsal 7:00–9:30 p.m., *McCaw Hall*

Join Artistic Director Peter Boal for an engaging preview during the hour preceding the *ALL THARP* dress rehearsal. Attend the lecture only or stay for the dress rehearsal. Tickets are \$12 for the lecture only, 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](http://www.pnb.org) or in person at 301 Mercer St.

**ALL THARP** is made possible in part thanks to generous sponsorship from Wells Fargo and supporting sponsor Moss Adams. 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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