

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2010

## MEDIA CONTACT:

Gary Tucker

206.441.2426

[gtucker@pnb.org](mailto:gtucker@pnb.org)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET PRESENTS THE SEVENTH ANNUAL

## Choreographers' Showcase

See the stars of tomorrow on stage today!

One Night Only! Wednesday, April 21, 2010

7:00 pm

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

Featuring four world premieres by PNB dancers!

**SEATTLE, WA** – Pacific Northwest Ballet presents the seventh annual **Choreographers' Showcase** on Wednesday, April 21 at 7:00 pm at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall at Seattle Center. Join us for an evening of four original works by the next generation of choreographers. This year's performance will feature new pieces created by PNB principal dancer **Jonathan Porretta**, soloist **Seth Orza**, corps de ballet dancer **Barry Kerollis**, and corps de ballet dancers **Andrew Bartee and Margaret Mullin**. The works will be performed by PNB School's Professional Division students. Tickets to the **Choreographers' Showcase** are bargain-priced at only \$10 to \$30 and 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 the PNB Box Office, 301 Mercer Street.

"New choreography is the life of a ballet company," says PNB Artistic Director Peter Boal. "Great choreography is not simply born on the great stages of the world. It is born in a studio with dancers and a choreographer's vision. The most important contribution we can make to the future of dance is to make these choreographic workshops possible."

Pacific Northwest Ballet's seventh annual **Choreographers' Showcase** is generously sponsored by The Boeing Company.

**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*, *Lacrymosa* and *Courte et Deuce* for the 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2009 (respectively) Choreographers' Showcases.

**Barry Kerollis** made his choreographic debut with *Basic Disaster* in PNB's 2008 Choreographers' Showcase, and followed that with *Pariah*, presented during the 2009 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.

**Seth Orza** makes his choreographic debut in PNB's 2009 Choreographers' Showcase. He 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.

**Andrew Bartee** is from Everett, Washington. He studied on scholarship at Pacific Northwest Ballet School and attended summer courses at Pacific Northwest Ballet 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.

**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.

Mr. Bartee and Ms. Mullin joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as apprentices in 2008 and were promoted to corps de ballet in 2009. Their work for the 2009 Choreographers' Showcase is the second collaborative piece that the two have created: Mr. Bartee and Ms. Mullin created the pas de deux *Two Touch* for Ballet Tucson's ROCS (roots of contemporary showcase). They have performed it with the company both in Arizona and France.

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. PNBS 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 Company apprentices are drawn from the School's Professional Division.

# # #

#### **Publicity Contact**

Gary Tucker, Media Relations Manager

Tel: 206-441-2426 / E-mail: [gtucker@pnb.org](mailto:gtucker@pnb.org) / Website: [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org)

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

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

301 mercer street seattle, wa 98109 206.441.9411 fax: 206.441.2440 [www.pnb.org](http://www.pnb.org)