

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pacific Northwest Ballet Presents the Spring
DISCOVER DANCE Community Performance
The second outreach performance of the 2009-2010 Season

2:00 pm -- April 24, 2010
Marion Oliver McCaw Hall
321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center

SEATTLE, WA — Pacific Northwest Ballet will present the second of this season's two DISCOVER DANCE Community Performances on Saturday, April 24 at 2:00 pm at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. DISCOVER DANCE is part of PNB's Community & Education Programs, offering long-term in-school residencies throughout the Greater Seattle area. The performance this spring will involve 350 elementary and middle school students from four public schools: **Daniel Bagley Elementary**, **Graham Hill Elementary**, and **Alternative School #1** from the Seattle Public School District, and **Eastgate Elementary** from the Bellevue School District. This performance will include original choreography and backdrops created by the twelve participating classrooms with the guidance of PNB Teaching Artists. As a special feature, the DISCOVER DANCE Community Performance will also feature excerpts from the PNB repertory performed by Company dancers as well as performances by **REACH Student Dance Group**, an outreach program for youth ages 11-15. Tickets to DISCOVER DANCE are \$12 and 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, 301 Mercer St.

"Your program is so powerful for children. Our community is forever grateful and I am so blessed to have been a part of it for 10 years." — Sally Fouche, parent, Eastgate Elementary

About DISCOVER DANCE

Pacific Northwest Ballet's innovative **DISCOVER DANCE** program was launched in 1998, and added a performance component two years later. The program serves a vital need by bringing dance education programs to Seattle and Eastside schools that might not otherwise have such opportunities. Each year, DISCOVER DANCE gives over 500 students, grades 2-8, the opportunity to work with PNB Teaching Artists, over three- to five-month residencies, to create original choreographic works specifically designed to be integrated into their academic curriculum. The students then perform their works onstage at McCaw Hall. Classes also get a behind-the-scenes look at a professional ballet company, including field trips to rehearsal studios, production offices and the PNB costume shop. PNB's largest Community Education program,

DISCOVER DANCE gives students a unique and comprehensive learning experience. PNB's Teaching Artists guide students to think of themselves as artists. The end result is not only dance education, but also fostering confidence, creativity, trust, and camaraderie among students.

About REACH Student Dance Group

REACH Student Dance Group is a partnership between Pacific Northwest Ballet and Spectrum Dance Theater. REACH offers 8-week intensive dance workshops for students to learn different dance styles, create original choreography, attend live performances, and perform at McCaw Hall. REACH is open to students ages 11–15, of all ability and experience levels. The 2009-2010 REACH faculty are Rex Kinney, hip-hop teacher, and Bahia in Motion, specializing in Afro-Brazilian dance.

The National Endowment for the Arts & DISCOVER DANCE Community Performances

In an announcement made by the National Endowment for the Arts in May 2008, DISCOVER DANCE was awarded \$40,000 for the 2009-2010 school year. The NEA award serves to substantially increase PNB's educational programming capacity in Seattle Public Schools via additional long-term, in-school residencies. In the fall of 2009, as a direct result of the award, 225 second grade students from Arbor Heights Elementary, Highland Park Elementary, and Broadview Thomson K-8 had the opportunity to learn dance and choreography with PNB Teaching Artists. The culmination of their work was showcased at the DISCOVER DANCE Community Performance, alongside repertory excerpts performed by PNB Company dancers at McCaw Hall on November 14, 2009.

TICKET & SHOWTIME INFORMATION

DISCOVER DANCE Community Performance will take place at **2:00 pm., April 24, 2010** at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center.

Tickets are \$12 and may be purchased:

- * By calling the PNB Box Office at **206.441.2424** (Mon.-Fri. 9am–6 pm; Sat. 10am–5pm)
- * In person at the **PNB Box Office**, 301 Mercer St. (Mon.-Fri. 10am–6pm; Sat. 10am–5pm)
- * Online at **www.pnb.org**
- * 90 minutes prior to the performance at McCaw Hall at 321 Mercer Street
- * Discounted \$10 tickets are available for groups of 10 or more by calling **206.441.2416** or emailing **juliej@pnb.org**

Special thanks to Bellevue Arts Commission, Harvest Foundation, Hearst Foundation, Horizons Foundation, Kobe Foundation, Lockwood Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, D.V. and Ida J. McEachern Charitable Trust, National Endowment for the Arts, PONCHO, Safeco Insurance Foundation, Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, Washington State Arts Commission, and Peg & Rick Young Foundation.

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To learn more about PNB Community Education Programs, please visit: www.pnb.org/community.

To learn more about the National Endowment for the Arts, please visit: www.nea.gov.

Images from Community Education Programs are available in the press room at: www.pnb.org.

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