



Peter Boal
Artistic Director

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET ANNOUNCES SPECIAL GUEST
CASTING FOR**

Stowell & Sendak
Nutcracker
25TH ANNIVERSARY

November 28 – December 30, 2008

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall
321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center

Seattle, WA - Pacific Northwest Ballet has announced the line-up of special guests who will be pulling on a pair of tights and making an appearance in the 25 Anniversary production of PNB's cherished **Stowell/Sendak Nutcracker**. Among the celebrities making their McCaw Hall debut as either Grandfather or Grandmother in the Act 1 party scene are KZOK personality Spike O'Neil; lead singer of Grammy-nominated band The Fray, Isaac Slade; and Seattle Storm guard/forward Sheryl Swoopes, among others.

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. Tickets to **Nutcracker** may be purchased by contacting the **PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424, online at www.pnb.org or in person at the PNB Box Office, 301 Mercer Street** at Seattle Center. Discounted tickets for groups of 15 or more may be purchased by phoning Julie Jamieson at 206.441.2416. 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. **PLEASE NOTE: No other ticket outlets are authorized to sell Pacific Northwest Ballet *Nutcracker* tickets.**

The complete line-up of special guests, with short bios of the performers making their PNB **Nutcracker** debuts:

November 30 – 1:00 pm performance

Stephen Kilbreath – PNB DEBUT!

Recognized as one of the best voices on radio, Stephen Kilbreath (formerly with KJR, formerly with KUBE) is currently a member of the KMPS Waking Crew. (Oh, wait – his **Nutcracker** performance already happened? Then let's skip his bio and go straight to the video of Kilbreath's backstage experience [here!](#))

Saturday, December 6, 2:00 pm performance

Randy Scott, member of the 94.1 KMPS Waking Crew.

Thursday, December 11, 7:30 pm performance

Spike O'Neill – PNB DEBUT!

Spike O'Neill, one of the on-air personalities with KZOK's Bob Rivers Show, began his radio career as a complaint caller to Rivers' show at Baltimore's WIYY. "Bob immediately saw my natural gift as a sarcastic smart-ass, and asked me to come along with him to the Pacific Northwest," O'Neill recalls, "and the rest, as they say, is a rap sheet." Since arriving in Seattle in the summer of 1989, O'Neill has grown from an inexperienced part-time player to a fixture in the Seattle market and one of the most recognized writer-voice talents in the industry. Along the way, no sacrifice has seemed too great for the sake of entertaining the audience; on the air, O'Neill has removed every hair on his body after losing a bet, pierced his nipples (no bet involved), and submitted to a prostate exam. He has been assured that his PNB debut as Grandfather in *Nutcracker* will be far less painful.

Friday, December 12, 7:30 pm performance

Heidi May – PNB DEBUT!

KJR 95.7 fm DJ Heidi May is one of those rare born-and-bred Seattleites. From the time she was 11 years old May wanted to be on the radio. She went to Lincoln High School in Seattle and visited KZOK on career day. Her question to the DJ at the time was "is there a future for women in radio?" After high school May went straight into Broadcasting School. Her first radio job was in the small western Washington town of Puyallup at KJUN Country. Radio jobs then took her to Shelton, Tacoma, Everett and finally back to Seattle. May has been on several top-rated Seattle stations, including the last nine years playing "Rock 'n' Roll's Greatest Hits" at 95.7 KJR-FM. Her 10am to 3pm weekday shift continues to rank among the top in the market for adult listeners.

Sunday, December 14, 1:00 pm performance

Sheryl Swoopes – PNB DEBUT!

The name Sheryl Swoopes is synonymous with women's basketball. Over the course of her career, Swoopes has achieved virtually every honor possible for a player, winning a National Championship at Texas Tech, four WNBA championships with the Houston Comets and gold medals in the 1992, 1996 and 2000 Olympics. Allocated to the Comets as the WNBA's first player, Swoopes missed the first half of the 1997 season while giving birth to son Jordan but returned in time to help lead the team to the WNBA's first championship - and the next three. In 2000, she won the first of three WNBA MVP awards, the most won by any player. Swoopes recorded the first regular-season and playoff triple-doubles in league history and is one of five players to score 4,000 points in their WNBA careers. After spending the first 12 years of her career in Houston, Swoopes signed with the Storm as a free agent on March 3, 2008.

Following her performance as Grandmother in PNB's *Nutcracker*, Swoopes will meet audience members post-show to sign autographs for young ballet-basketball-wannabes.

Wednesday, December 17, 7:30 pm performance

John Curley, host of KING-5's "Evening Magazine"

Thursday, December 18, 2:00 pm performance

Marty Riemer – PNB DEBUT!

As the son of a Boeing engineer, it seemed as if Marty Riemer, host of 103.7 KMTT's Mountain Morning Show, would follow in his father's footsteps -- he even got a masters degree in electrical engineering from UW -- but he'd been fascinated by radio since the age of 13, when he weaseled his way into weekend work at KGRG, the radio station at Green River Community College in Auburn. Later, part-time jobs at KZOK and KJR financed his college education; he then spent six years at the legendary KXXR. After the demise of "The X," Riemer developed his own TV/video production company, where his projects have included an outdoors series with hydroplane racer Chip Hanauer that's aired in more than 40 countries. Now he's the

morning host on The Mountain, preserving commuters' sanity on the sometimes dreary ride to work. Riemer had to make his PNB debut as Grandfather during a matinee performance of **Nutcracker**, because the evening performances are all way past his bedtime.

Friday, December 19, 7:30 pm performance
Steve Pool, KOMO 4 News weathercaster

Friday, December 26, 7:30 pm performance
Anna and Isaac Slade – PNB DEBUTS!

Seattle native and former ballet student Anna Slade is living out a childhood dream of performing with Pacific Northwest Ballet in *Nutcracker*. In her real life, Ms. Slade is an English educator and singer currently residing in Denver, CO with her husband, Isaac Slade, lead singer and pianist of the Grammy Award-nominated alt-rock band The Fray, whose self-titled second album will be released February 3, 2009 by Epic Records.

There are a few other performers appearing in **Nutcracker**. In fact, taking the stage are PNB's entire company of professional dancers, 26 Professional Division students and over 200 students from Pacific Northwest Ballet School in roles that range from mice and toy soldiers to flowers, peacocks, dervishes and the coveted roles of Clara and her prince. For the current list of who is dancing leading roles, check out PNB's [casting page](#).

For way more **Nutcracker** information, click on the [press release](#) at PNB's online Press Room.

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.

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