

 **PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET**
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PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET'S

Stowell & Sendak
Nutcracker

HOSTS CONTESTS BOTH LITERATE AND ARTISTIC!

SEATTLE, WA – Before it returns to Seattle Center's McCaw Hall on November 27, Pacific Northwest Ballet's Stowell/Sendak *Nutcracker* is offering up two challenges for contestants to test their creativity and win tickets to the Northwest's favorite holiday tradition. Whether your medium is Crayola or Cross Pen, glitter and glue or thesaurus and thesis, PNB has a challenge to match your skill-set. Starting with...

THE 12 DAYS OF NUTCRACKER

Are you nuts about *Nutcracker*? Tell PNB about it and you could be one of twelve lucky writers to win two free tickets to an opening weekend performance of PNB's renowned holiday extravaganza! Pacific Northwest Ballet is holding a writing contest, so take pen to paper (well, fingers to keypad) and send us your notes about *Nutcracker*. Get cracking: For twelve days – November 12 through 23 – PNB will be scanning our Nutcracker@pnb.org mailbox for outstanding anecdotes and essays, be they funny or far-out, touching or treachy, and picking a baker's dozen to be showcased on our website. Winners will receive two free tickets to an opening weekend performance of *Nutcracker*, a *Nutcracker* poster, a collectible *Nutcracker* bobble-head, and a selection of *Nutcracker* flair pins!

There are no restrictions on what to write – Nutty or nice, fact or fiction, homily or haiku – but please keep it to no more than 500 words. (And less would be nice: Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.) Entries must include the author's full name, e-mail and daytime phone number. Extra credit will be given for creative use of the words "Maurice," "mice" or "maestro." And be forewarned: Demerits will be doled out to entries that use the words "Ginger," "Sugar Plum" or "Rockette."

The Not-So-Fine Print: All entries must be received via e-mail at Nutcracker@pnb.org no later than November 23, 2009. One winner will be chosen each day between November 12 and 23, however all submissions will be considered each day; There is no need to enter more than once, and

multiple entries risk irritating the judges. All entries become the property of Pacific Northwest Ballet which may use them for any purpose whatsoever without payment to the author. Twelve winners will each receive two tickets to an opening weekend performance of *Nutcracker*, November 27-29. Winners will be notified by e-mail or phone and may pick up their tickets at the PNB Box Office on November 20, 21 and 23, at which time PNB may take the winners' photo or a short video to post on PNB's website. Winners notified after November 20 or who are unable to pick up their tickets in advance can make arrangements to pick up tickets at will-call on the night of their chosen performance.

Anything over 140-characters is too taxing? Here's an easier challenge for the artistic mind:

TRIMMING THE TREE

Presented by The Seattle Times Company with Pacific Northwest Ballet

Create your own *Nutcracker* Tree with the Sunday Seattle Times. Just look for PNB's famous *Nutcracker* Tree in the Sunday newspaper, and cut out and color ornaments located throughout the Seattle Times all this week to create a one-of-a-kind tree. All entries will be displayed in McCaw Hall and one lucky artist will win the Grand Prize of a magical weekend in Seattle for four, including *Nutcracker* tickets, accommodations at the MarQueen Hotel, dinner at Ivar's Acres of Clams at Pier 54, and an autographed *Nutcracker* poster. Ten first-place winners will receive four tickets each to a performance of *Nutcracker*. For details, pick up a copy of The Seattle Times.

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Pacific Northwest Ballet's *Nutcracker*, featuring choreography by PNB Founding Artistic Director Kent Stowell and sets and costumes designed by acclaimed children's book author and illustrator Maurice Sendak, returns to Seattle Center's McCaw Hall for 42 performances November 27 through December 30, 2009. Tickets start at \$26 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 at 301 Mercer St. Tickets are also available at select Ticketmaster outlets, by calling 206.292-ARTS or online at ticketmaster.com (limited availability). **PLEASE NOTE: No other ticket outlets are authorized to sell Pacific Northwest Ballet *Nutcracker* tickets.**

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