



PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 1, 2009

MEDIA CONTACT

Gary Tucker
206.441.2426
gtucker@pnb.org

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET PRESENTS

Nutcracker

Stowell & Sendak

THE NORTHWEST'S FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION!

Music: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Choreography: Kent Stowell

Scenic and costume design: Maurice Sendak

Lighting design: Randall G. Chiarelli

November 27-December 30, 2009

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center

Seattle, WA 98109

“Nutcracker continues to be a joy outside of time, place, and history. The thrill of the children both in the audience and on the stage is contagious.” *-The Seattle Times*

SEATTLE, WA – Pacific Northwest Ballet’s cherished Stowell/Sendak *Nutcracker* returns to light up Seattle Center’s McCaw Hall with memories and merriment for all ages. The only production of its kind in the world, PNB’s *Nutcracker* combines PNB Founding Artistic Director Kent Stowell’s charming and dramatic choreography with magnificent sets and costumes by renowned author and illustrator Maurice Sendak (*Where the Wild Things Are*) and features the live magic of the PNB Orchestra and more than 200 roles danced by PNB’s professional dancers and students. Twenty-six years young, *Nutcracker* is the Northwest’s favorite holiday tradition.

Celebrate the season with PNB’s *Nutcracker*, playing November 27 – December 30, 2009. Tickets start at \$26 and 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. Subject to

availability, day-of-show tickets are sold 90 minutes prior to each performance at McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street. A limited choice of tickets is also available at select Ticketmaster outlets, 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 brilliant result of close collaboration between Kent Stowell and Maurice Sendak, Pacific Northwest Ballet's **Nutcracker** premiered to national acclaim on December 13, 1983. (*Newsweek* raved, "Forget the Space Needle, forget the Ring Cycle, forget Mt. Rainier – this **Nutcracker** alone is worth a trip to Seattle.") Drawing on E.T.A. Hoffman's *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, Stowell and Sendak delved deeply into the original story and infused the ballet with a drama and strength that fully complements Tchaikovsky's classic score. The following year saw the publication of **Nutcracker**, a new edition of the original Hoffman story, with illustrations by Sendak, that remained on the *New York Times*' Best Seller List for eight weeks. In 1986 a feature-length film of the Stowell/Sendak **Nutcracker** was premiered in Seattle and released nationwide. In addition to annual Seattle performances, PNB has performed **Nutcracker** in Vancouver, Portland and Minneapolis. For the **Nutcracker** story and a complete listing of **Nutcracker** activities and events, please visit PNB's website at www.pnb.org.

Listen to the Ballet! PNB partners with **98.1 Classical KING FM** to bring listeners some of history's most popular ballet scores, featuring the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra direct from McCaw Hall. Tune in to KING FM for Tchaikovsky's beautifully scored **Nutcracker** on Friday, November 27 at 7:30 pm. Only on 98.1 fm or online at www.king.org/listen.

Each year PNB invites students in grades K - 12 to attend reduced-priced **school matinees** of **Nutcracker**. In 2009 PNB is expecting to welcome approximately 8,000 children from schools around the northwest for these performances. **Nutcracker** student matinees are a wonderful way for young people to experience the magic of the theatre: PNB's classic production is a treat for all ages. Matinees will be performed on Friday, December 4, Thursday, December 10, and Friday, December 11. PNB's Community Education department also offers in-school pre-performance workshops which include exploration of movement, the **Nutcracker** story, and an up-close look at costumes. For more information on purchasing tickets to school performances (minimum group size of 15 required), contact the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424. To arrange pre-performance or post-performance in-school workshops, call Rochelle Rapaszky at 206.441.9411.

PNB Nutcracker Brunch: Join the PNB League at 9:00 am on Saturday, November 28 for a fun-filled holiday event designed for younger children and their families. Enjoy activities for kids, a delicious brunch and a special **Nutcracker**-themed mini-performance to delight the young and young-at-heart alike. Brunch tickets may be purchased through the PNB Box Office by calling 206.441.2424. For more information about this annual sell-out event, e-mail events@pnb.org.

Visit www.pnb.org/Community/PNBKids for other **Nutcracker**-related **kids' stuff** including coloring pages, photos, recommended reading, viewing and listening lists, FAQs and more.

2009 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: *NUTCRACKER*

Day	Date	Times
Friday	Nov. 27	7:30 pm
Saturday	Nov. 28	2:00 pm & 7:30 pm
Sunday	Nov. 29	1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
Friday	Dec. 4	7:30 pm
Saturday	Dec. 5	2:00 pm+ & 7:30 pm+
Sunday	Dec. 6	1:00 pm+ & 5:30 pm
Thursday	Dec. 10	7:30 pm
Friday	Dec. 11	7:30 pm
Saturday	Dec. 12	2:00 pm+ & 7:30 pm+
Sunday	Dec. 13	1:00 pm+ & 5:30 pm+
Tuesday	Dec. 15	7:30 pm
Wednesday	Dec. 16	7:30 pm
Thursday	Dec. 17	7:30 pm
Friday	Dec. 18	2:00 pm & 7:30 pm+
Saturday	Dec. 19	2:00 pm+ & 7:30 pm+
Sunday	Dec. 20	1:00 pm+ & 5:30 pm+
Monday	Dec. 21	2:00 pm & 7:30 pm
Tuesday	Dec. 22	2:00 pm & 7:30 pm
Wednesday	Dec. 23	2:00 pm & 7:30 pm
Thursday	Dec. 24	12:00 noon+
Friday	Dec. 25	Ho, ho, ho, no show today!
Saturday	Dec. 26	2:00 pm & 7:30
Sunday	Dec. 27	1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
Monday	Dec. 28	1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
Tuesday	Dec. 29	1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
Wednesday	Dec. 30	1:00 pm & 5:30 pm*

+Peak performance prices apply.

*Closing performance is the annual “Nutty Nutcracker” performance, during which scenes or music might be altered. *Ya pays yer money, ya takes yer chances.*

TICKET INFORMATION:

Ticket range: \$26 to \$123 (Discounts available for children 0-12. All ages require a ticket for admission, including babes in arms. Running time for *Nutcracker* is two hours.)

Purchase tickets online at www.pnb.org

Box Office Phone: 206.441.2424 (Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm)

Box Office Location: 301 Mercer Street, Seattle (Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm)

Ticketmaster: 206.292.ARTS or www.ticketmaster.com (limited availability)

Tickets are available 90 minutes prior to each performance at McCaw Hall, subject to availability.

Group Sales: 206.441.2416 or e-mail juliej@pnb.org.

McCaw Hall is located on the Seattle Center campus at 321 Mercer Street. Parking is available directly across the street at the Mercer Garage. Check the Seattle Center 24-hour traffic and event info line for up-to-date parking and transportation information: 206.233.3989.

TICKET DISCOUNT OPTIONS & OTHER OFFERS:

Nutcracker Family Packs

Bring the whole family with PNB's specially priced Family Packs and create unforgettable memories to cherish for years to come. Family Packs include four discounted *Nutcracker* tickets and coupons to be redeemed at McCaw Hall for cookies and milk or cider! Family Packs start at \$174 and are available for all *Nutcracker* performances. Family Packs must be purchased through the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424 or in-person at 301 Mercer Street.

Bring a Group to Nutcracker and Save up to 25%!

It's the perfect way to celebrate the holiday season with 15 to 3,000 family members, co-workers, friends, or clients! Groups receive up to 25% off regular *Nutcracker* prices, depending on performance date, time, and section. In addition to outstanding savings, groups receive personal ticketing assistance, the opportunity to book a backstage tour, and access to McCaw Hall reception facilities that may be rented for private parties. For more information, contact Julie Jamieson at 206.441.2416 or juliej@pnb.org. Groups can also use PNB's Online Group Builder at pnb.org.

Teen Tix

PNB is a proud participant of Seattle Center's Teen Tix program. Young people 13 to 19 years old can join Teen Tix and purchase tickets to PNB performances and other music, dance, theatre, and arts events for only \$5. For *Nutcracker*, Teen Tix availability is limited to the Sunday, November 29, 5:30 performance, on a first-come, first-served basis. No "companion tickets" are available at the Teen Tix rate for this performance. To join or for more information, visit Seattle Center's Teen Tix webpage at www.seattlecenter.com/teentix.

Give the Gift of Dance with PNB's "Fairy Tales for Families" Series: PNB is offering a Family Series that includes tickets to four ballets: the cherished *Nutcracker* (select dates only), the enchanting *The Sleeping Beauty* (February 4 - 14), the classic children's tale *Hansel and Gretel* (March 21 & 27), and the joyous *Coppélia* (June 3 - 13). These family-friendly performances are a lasting gift that can be enjoyed for months and remembered for a lifetime. Packages start at a magically discounted price of just \$109. To reserve a Fairy Tale package, call 206.441.2425.

Holiday Shopping at Amusements Gift Shop: Find a captivating array of unique gifts for everyone on your list - or yourself - at Amusements Gift Shop at McCaw Hall (open before, during and after performances.) Bring the memories and magic of PNB's *Nutcracker* home with a wide selection of books, music, decorations, apparel, *Nutcracker*'s collectible "flair" buttons, and, of course, nutcrackers. A limited selection of gift items is also available on PNB's Online Gift Shop at www.pnb.org (open 24/7).

#

Supporting sponsor of Pacific Northwest Ballet's *Nutcracker* is UW Medicine. Media support is provided by *The Seattle Times* and KOMO 4. Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2009-2010 Season is proudly sponsored by Microsoft Corporation. Additional season support is provided by Artsfund, the Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, 4Culture - King County Lodging Tax and Washington State Arts Commission.

Programming subject to change. For further information, please visit: www.pnb.org.

Publicity Contact

Gary Tucker, Media Relations Manager
Tel: 206.441.2426 / E-mail: gtucker@pnb.org

About Pacific Northwest Ballet

Pacific Northwest Ballet, one of the largest and most highly regarded ballet companies in the United States, was founded in 1972. In July 2005, Peter Boal became Artistic Director, succeeding Kent Stowell and Francia Russell, Co-Artistic Directors since 1977. The Company of fifty-one dancers presents more than 100 performances each year of full-length and mixed repertory ballets at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall and on tour. The Company has toured to Europe, Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Canada and throughout the United States, with celebrated appearances at Jacob's Pillow and in New York City and Washington, DC.

Under the direction of Peter Boal, PNB has continued to expand and diversify its repertory to include works by Ulysses Dove, Susan Stroman, Jiri Kylian, Mark Morris, Victor Quijada, Twyla Tharp, Christopher Wheeldon, Benjamin Millepied and others.

Founded in 1974, Pacific Northwest Ballet School, under the direction of Francia Russell since 1977 and now under Mr. Boal's direction, is nationally recognized as setting the standard for ballet training and offers a complete professional curriculum to over 950 students. The School also provides comprehensive dance education to the greater Seattle area and reaches over 10,000 adults and children each year through DanceChance, Discover Dance and other outreach programs and activities.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

301 mercer street seattle, wa 98109 206.441.9411 fax: 206.441.2440 www.pnb.org