

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Pacific Northwest Ballet announces first week's PRINCIPAL CASTING, special GUEST CONDUCTORS, and PETER BOAL'S DEBUT as Dr. Coppélius in the PNB Premiere of George Balanchine's

Coppélia

June 3-13, 2010

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

SEATTLE, WA – Pacific Northwest Ballet's artistic director, Peter Boal, has widely acknowledged that attending a New York City Ballet performance of the comic ballet **Coppélia** at the ripe young age of nine was what convinced him that he wanted to be a dancer. Eight years later he was a member of the NYCB corps de ballet in **Coppélia**. Eventually he rose to the rank of principal with the company and had the opportunity to dance Franz, the romantic male lead. Bringing a brand new production of George Balanchine's **Coppélia** to the stage has been a dream of Mr. Boal's since he took over the reins of PNB, and now with the opening night on June 3rd, he will go as far as one man can with the ballet: Dancing the role of eccentric toymaker Dr. Coppélius, whose life-like creation, the doll Coppélia, creates hilarious havoc between two young lovers.

Mr. Boal's performance is just one of the leads that have been announced for the first week of PNB's production of **Coppélia**. In addition to Mr. Boal as Dr. Coppélius, lead performers on opening night Thursday, June 3 at 7:30 pm include: principal dancer **Kaori Nakamura** as Swanilda, and principal dancer **Jonathan Porretta** as Franz. Opening weekend will also see the PNB Orchestra conducting Léo Delibes' lively score under the baton of two guest conductors: At the opening night performance, the PNB Orchestra will be conducted by **Nathan Fifiield**.

On Friday, June 4 at 7:30 pm, lead performers include: principal dancer **Mara Vinson** as Swanilda, soloist **James Moore** as Franz, and principal dancer **Jeffrey Stanton** as Dr. Coppélius. The PNB Orchestra will again be led by guest conductor **Nathan Fifiield**. (This performance will be broadcast live on 98.1 Classical KING FM.)

For the Saturday, June 5, 2:00 pm matinee, lead performers include: principal dancer **Kaori Nakamura** as Swanilda, principal dancer **Jonathan Porretta** as Franz, and principal dancer **Olivier Wevers** as Dr. Coppélius. The PNB Orchestra will be led by guest conductor **Emil de Cou**.

At the Saturday, June 5, 7:30 pm performance, lead performers include: principal dancer **Carla Körbes** as Swanilda, soloist **Seth Orza** as Franz, and artistic director **Peter Boal** as Dr. Coppélius. The PNB Orchestra will again be conducted by **Emil de Cou**.

Complete casting for the first week's (June 3 – 5) run of **Coppélia** will be posted online at pnb.org on Tuesday, May 25. Casting for the second week's performances, June 10 – 13, will be posted online on May 31. Program and casting are always subject to change. For more information on our guest conductors, see below.

Pacific Northwest Ballet's premiere production of George Balanchine's **Coppélia** runs for nine performances only, from June 3 to 13 at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center. Tickets may be purchased through the PNB Box Office by calling 206.441.2424, in person at 301 Mercer Street, or online at pnb.org. Visit our website for more information and box office hours.

For information about special events and offers surrounding PNB's premiere production of **Coppélia**, including group offers, seminars and discussions, family matinee activities, and much more, visit pnb.org and click on "Learn More."

Guest Conductor: Thursday, June 3 and Friday, June 4 7:30 pm performances

Conductor, pianist, and songwriter Nathan Fifield is currently the music director of the Tulsa Ballet and a regular guest conductor at San Francisco and Houston Ballets. Mr. Fifield is the lyricist and arranger for the songs on his latest album, "Something Tells Me," which features music written by the late jazz composer, Joseph Fifield. He is currently working on a new album of original songs with Houston based electronic artist Dubgeist. An active opera conductor and coach, Mr. Fifield has conducted many operas and musicals including *West Side Story*, *Into the Woods*, *Carmen*, and *Le Nozze di Figaro*, working with such companies as Utah Festival Opera, Opera in the Heights, Chelsea Opera, and One World Symphony. He was one of three finalists selected by Michael Tilson Thomas to conduct the New World Symphony for the orchestra's conducting fellowship. He has guest conducted the Albany Symphony and the Oakland Youth Symphony, and served as the assistant conductor for the Princeton Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Fifield received a BM in Piano Performance and a MM in conducting from the Mannes School of Music where he was the recipient of the N.T. Milani Graduate Conducting Fellowship. His conducting teachers have included David Hayes, Michael Morgan, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Gustav Meier. His compositions for ballet can be heard on several recordings released by world renowned dance teacher David Howard.

Guest Conductor: Saturday, June 5 2:00 pm matinee and 7:30 pm performances

Emil de Cou has been associate conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra for the past eight seasons, and an active participant in a wide range of NSO performances and events since his debut at Wolf Trap in 2000. In 2005, Mr. de Cou took up his newly-created position as NSO @ Wolf Trap festival conductor. Of his Tchaikovsky evening, the *Washington Post* declared "de Cou's rapport with the orchestra was at its usual high level, his attention to detail as impressive as always... The sound was, in turn, lush and intensely energetic." Mr. de Cou's recent season highlights includes guest conducting engagements with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops, Colorado Symphony Orchestra with Renée Fleming, the Suzanne Farrell Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet as well as continuing his numerous duties as associate conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra. Mr. de Cou made his Carnegie Hall debut as guest conductor for the New York Pops, and also appeared at the gala tribute to Beverly Sills at Lincoln Center with the Orchestra of St. Luke's and a stellar roster of soloists. As part of his work as musical consultant for NASA he has conducted several successful collaborations with the nation's space agency, most recently on "Salute to Apollo, the

Kennedy Legacy" at the Kennedy Center in honor of the 40th anniversary of the moon landing. In 1985 Mr. de Cou was hired by Mikhail Baryshnikov to be the conductor of the American Ballet Theatre, and in 1994 joined the staff of the San Francisco Ballet, completing his tenure there as acting music director in 2001. He was also Principal Pops Conductor for the San Francisco Symphony and has conducted the New York City Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, Netherlands Dance Theatre, Hong Kong Ballet, National Ballet of Holland, Ballet Met, Oakland Ballet, and worked with such dance luminaries as Agnes DeMille, Margot Fonteyn, Jiri Kylian, Christopher Wheeldon, Cynthia Gregory, Fernando Bujones, Natalia Makarova, and Gelsey Kirkland among many others. Mr. de Cou was born in Los Angeles and studied with Daniel Lewis at the University of Southern California. He was the subject of a documentary on National Public Radio and was chosen from 200 candidates to study in Leonard Bernstein's master class at the Hollywood Bowl.

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Pacific Northwest Ballet's production of George Balanchine's ***Coppélia*** is a co-production with San Francisco Ballet and is made possible by principal sponsors Glenn Kawasaki, Dan & Pam Baty, Brady Richardson, and Maurice Kanbar, major sponsors Nordstrom and the Nesholm Family Foundation, media sponsor KOMO 4, supporting sponsor Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, and opening night dinner sponsor Flexjet. PNB's 2009-2010 Season is sponsored by Microsoft Corporation. Additional season support is provided by ArtsFund, the Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, 4Culture – King County Lodging Tax, 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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