

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pacific Northwest Ballet and PNB School present

NEXT STEP

PNB's annual choreographic showcase features new works created by company dancers, performed by students of the PNB School Professional Division.

One Night Only!

Friday, June 13, 2025

7:30 PM

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center

Seattle, WA 98109

SEATTLE, WA — Pacific Northwest Ballet's annual choreographers' showcase, **NEXT STEP**, returns to McCaw Hall for a night of original danceworks. This year's showcase features five premieres choreographed by six PNB company dancers: Jonathan Batista, Amanda Morgan, Sam Portillo, Lily Wills, and the co-choreographer team of Kyle Davis and Sarah-Gabrielle Ryan, all set on the Professional Division student dancers of PNB School – the dance stars of tomorrow, on stage today. **NEXT STEP** will be presented one night only, lucky Friday, June 13, 2025 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are only \$34 (general admission) and may be purchased through the PNB Box Office, 206.441.2424 or PNB.org.

NEXT STEP provides dancers, studio space, and rehearsal time for company members who wish to hone their choreography skills. It was originally conceived by Artistic Director Peter Boal as a means to develop emerging choreographic talent, and as a channel for Professional Division students from PNB School (talented young artists one step away from their professional careers) to participate in the creation of a new work. "It's all right there in the name: **NEXT STEP** offers members of the PNB company more than just studio space, talented dancers, and support from PNB's incredible costume, lighting, and stage management departments. This is an opportunity to push forward in dance, and one that can have a substantial and long-term impact on a dancer artist's career. There are five exciting **NEXT STEP** choreographers this season, some returning artists from the past and some new," said program

coordinator Eva Stone. "All are busy creating inside this unique laboratory of movement exploration and discovery. The Professional Division students are not only working with heart and commitment but are learning new perspectives about the creative process from the ground up."

The **NEXT STEP** line-up includes:

Suddenly, O FIM (The End)

Music: Leandro Albuquerque

Choreography: Jonathan Batista

"This piece reflects on life as a journey—unpredictable, fragile, and fleeting. It explores the idea that we are never truly prepared for the moment it all comes to an end... O FIM. It is a tribute to the inevitable, a meditation on presence, and a reminder of how precious every breath, every step, truly is. I dedicate this work to my dear friend, greatest supporter, and the ever-so-lovely Lynn Lindsay. To our friendship, her memory, and the legacy she left behind; This is for you."

Jonathan Batista's 2025 NEXT STEP piece is generously sponsored by Dr. Frank & Madelyn Lindsay*.

Pas de Deux from an Unnamed Story

Music: Macedonio Alcalá; Manuel Ponce and Beverly Sills

Choreography: Kyle Davis and Sarah-Gabrielle Ryan

"Driven by an overwhelming sense that a narrative ballet - steeped in Mexico's rich culture - was needed in the dance world, we began writing a synopsis for a new evening-length story ballet inspired by Sarah-Gabrielle's Mexican heritage. While this ballet will be strongly rooted in elements profoundly Mexican - mariachi and ranchero music, the historic events of the Battle of Tampico, and the colorful traditions of Dia de los Muertos - the ballet will also highlight universal themes of coping with the loss of loved ones, war, and the need for independence and freedom. This pas de deux, conceived as the ballet's resolution, marks the first step in the creation of a boundless project."

Kyle Davis & Sarah-Gabrielle Ryan's 2025 NEXT STEP piece is generously sponsored by Aya Stark Hamilton and Amy Haugerud & Noel Miller.

Ether

Music: Delia Derbyshire, Peter Gregson and Jean-Michel Blais

Choreography: Amanda Morgan

Ether seeks to examine death and the effects of grief on us all. How do we continue to remember those who are physically no longer here with us? Death is inevitable, it's painful, yet in our lives who do we continue to carry with us?

Amanda Morgan's 2025 NEXT STEP piece is generously sponsored by Susan Young Buske.

Tomorrow

Music: Nine Inch Nails

Choreography: Sam Portillo

Tomorrow, and the days that lead up to it.

This piece explores change. Why does it happen, what do you embrace, what do you reject?

The Past informs the present informs the future.

Sam Portillo's 2025 NEXT STEP piece is generously sponsored by Connie and Tom* Walsh.

As If Apart

Music: Chris Cohen

Choreography: Lily Wills

An exploration of inner life: four movements examining themes of fear, nostalgia, loneliness, and acceptance.

Lily Wills' 2025 NEXT STEP piece is generously sponsored by the Lucinda Hughey Endowment and Dr. Joe G. Norman, Jr.

TICKET & SHOWTIME INFORMATION

NEXT STEP will be presented one night only, Friday, June 13, at McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center. Showtime is 7:30 PM.

This is a general admission event: Seating is first come, first served. (Doors and box office open at 6:00, and seating begins at 6:30 PM.) All tickets are \$34 (tax and fees inclusive), and may be purchased through the PNB Box Office:

- Phone - 206.441.2424
- In Person - 301 Mercer Street, Seattle
- Online - PNB.org

Subject to availability, tickets are also available one hour prior to show time at the McCaw Hall box office. There will be no student or senior rush tickets sold for **NEXT STEP**.

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The 2025 NEXT STEP performance is generously sponsored by Stephen & Marie Heil.

Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2024-25 season is proudly sponsored by 4Culture, ArtsFund, Microsoft, and The Shubert Foundation. PNB's digital season is made possible by Katherine Graubard and William Calvin. PNB media sponsorship provided by *The Seattle Times*.

Publicity Contact

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Everything is subject to change. For further information, please visit PNB.org.

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