

PNB PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET
PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pacific Northwest Ballet School presents
the world premiere of

MOMOTARÓ THE PEACH BOY

March 21 – 28, 2026

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

Three Performances Only!

Saturday, March 21 at 11:30 pm
Saturday, March 28 at 12:30* and 3:30 pm
*Sensory-friendly performance

Momotaro Community Day: Saturday, March 28, 11:30 am – 3:30 pm

Momotaro

Music: Saburo Moroi, Kazuko Yamada, Takashi Yoshimatsu, and Traditional Folk Music

Director and Choreographer: Jessica Lang

Creative Associate and Dramaturg: Kanji Segawa

Set Design Concept: Jessica Lang and Kanji Segawa

Set Design Illustration: Yuki Takahashi

Scenic Coordinator: Yuki Izumihara

Costume Design: Meleta Buckstaff

Lighting Design: Reed Nakayama

Narrator: Brad Lo Walker

Running Time: One hour (no intermission)

SEATTLE, WA –Pacific Northwest Ballet is proud to present the world premiere of Jessica Lang's *Momotaro*, the newest addition to PNB's series of narrated, one-hour family-friendly ballets performed by students of the PNB School and designed especially for young audiences. (*Momotaro* does not feature PNB Company dancers.) *Momotaro* runs for three performances only, March 21 and 28, at Seattle Center's

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. For tickets and information, call the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424, or visit PNB.org.

Momotaro (*The Peach Boy*) is considered Japan's oldest folk tale. It was first written around the Edo period (1603-1868) but is thought to have been passed down for centuries before then, with many different versions over time. PNB's version of *Momotaro*, adapted by Jessica Lang and Kanji Segawa, brings this captivating tale to the ballet stage with a focus on themes of courage, forgiveness, and the power of family and friends. It tells the story of a boy who springs to life from a giant peach, to the delight of the elderly couple who have longed for a child of their own. *Momotaro* eventually goes on a hero's quest to find the ogres who have stolen from his family and neighbors. Along the way he befriends a dog, a pheasant, and a monkey who help him defeat the ogres and return the stolen treasures to their rightful homes.

Sensory-friendly Performance of *Momotaro*

PNB is proud to present an inclusive, sensory-friendly performance of *Momotaro* on Saturday, March 28 at 12:30 pm. This performance will feature a supportive and welcoming environment so children and adults affected by autism or with other sensory needs can enjoy the shared experience of live ballet with their friends and family. Modified lighting and sound levels, fidgets, entry/exit privileges, trained staff, allowance of devices, touch stations, and a quiet room will be offered at this matinee. For more information on sensory-friendly performances visit PNB.org/accessibility.

***Momotaro* Community Day**

PNB celebrates Japanese and Japanese American art, dance, and culture, with a FREE, interactive, and family-friendly *Momotaro* Community Day on Saturday, March 28 from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm. The event will include performances, an artists' market, collaborative art and craft stations, a panel discussion, and more for the community and *Momotaro* ticketholders to enjoy before and between the performances. For details and more information, visit PNB.org/blog/get-ready-for-momotaro-at-pnb.

Ticket Information

Momotaro tickets are \$39 to \$83, with half-price discounts available for children 14 and under, and may be purchased through the PNB Box Office:

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

Subject to availability, tickets are also available 90 minutes prior to show times at McCaw Hall.

About the Artists

[Jessica Lang](#) is Resident Choreographer of Pacific Northwest Ballet. She has created over 100 original works on companies worldwide including American Ballet Theatre (ABT), Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, The Royal Ballet, and her eponymous company Jessica Lang Dance. Lang has created four original works for Pacific Northwest Ballet; *Her Door to the Sky* (2016, commissioned in part by Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival), *Ghost Variations* (2020, nominated for The Critics' Circle National Dance Awards for Best Digital Choreography in 2021), *Let Me Mingle Tears With Thee* (2022), and *Black Wave* (2024). Lang has choreographed San Francisco Opera's production of *Aida*, directed by Francesca Zambello that was presented at Washington National Opera, Seattle Opera, and LA Opera. Lang has directed and choreographed *Stabat Mater* at the 2013 Glimmerglass Opera Festival, later presented at Lincoln Center's White Light Festival in 2017. Additional commissions include new works for the Kennedy Center with the National Symphony Orchestra, The Harris Theater, and the Chicago Architecture Biennial in collaboration with architect Steven Holl, the Dallas Museum of Art, and the Guggenheim Museum for its Works and Process series. Her company Jessica Lang Dance performed in over 85 cities presented by venues including

Lincoln Center, LA Music Center, The Kennedy Center, NY City Center, Tel Aviv Opera, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, BAM Fisher, and Helikon Opera. She is the recipient of a 2018 Martha Hill Mid-Career Award, the 2017 Arison Award, and a 2014 Bessie Award. Lang's work has also been performed by educational institutions including The Juilliard School, SUNY Purchase, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, and University of Arizona. www.jessicalangchoreographer.com/about

Kanji Segawa, originally from Kanagawa, Japan, began his dance training with his mother Erika Akoh, studying ballet with Kan Horiuchi and Ju Horiuchi in Tokyo. Segawa was awarded the Japanese Government Artist Fellowship in 1997 to train at The Ailey School. A former member of Ailey II and Battleworks, Segawa danced extensively for Mark Morris and performed as a principal dancer in John Adams' *Nixon in China* at The Metropolitan Opera. Since 1999, Segawa has been Creative Associate for Jessica Lang, assisting her creations for companies worldwide including ABT, PNB, The Royal Ballet, and The National Ballet of Japan. With Lang, Segawa co-choreographed the world premiere production of *Turandot* for The Washington National Opera, directed by Francesca Zambello. He was a dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater under the direction of Robert Battle from 2011-2023 and became Assistant Rehearsal Director in 2024.

Founded in 1974, **Pacific Northwest Ballet School** is recognized as one of the top ballet training institutions in the United States. The School offers a complete, professional curriculum to nearly 1,000 students. The School offers full and partial tuition scholarships to students who demonstrate artistic potential and financial need. PNB.org/PNB-school/

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Pacific Northwest Ballet School's premiere of *Momotaro* is supported by Aimee Truchard, Leslie Yamada, Once Upon a Dance, Deidra Wager, Yuka Shimizu, and Connie Walsh. **Momotaro Community Day** is presented by Town & Country Markets, with additional support from ArtsWA.

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Publicity Contact

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

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