

PNB PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET
PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

February 11, 2026 – For Immediate Release

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Featuring works by Alejandro Cerrudo and Ulysses Dove, and the long-awaited return of Kent Stowell's production of the classic *Firebird*.

Seven Performances Only: March 13 – 22, 2026

Fridays, March 13 and 20 at 7:30 PM

Saturdays, March 14 and 21* at 2:00* and 7:30 PM

Sunday, March 22 at 1:00 PM

**Audio described performance: March 21 at 2:00 PM

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center

Seattle, Washington 98109

Streaming Digitally March 26 – 30

SEATTLE, WA – For the fourth program of its 25-26 season, Pacific Northwest Ballet is excited to bring back Founding Artistic Director Kent Stowell's *Firebird* after a 20-year hiatus. This theatrical one-act story ballet features exuberant sets and costumes by legendary designers Ming Cho Lee and Theoni V. Aldredge (respectively), and a company of 30 dancers performing to Stravinsky's iconic score. Stowell's epic piece is balanced on this program by two additional works, Alejandro Cerrudo's playful *Little mortal jump*, and Ulysses Dove's fierce *Red Angels*.

FiREBIRD runs for seven performances only, March 13 through 22 at Seattle Center's Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. Tickets start at just \$44. (The program will also stream digitally March 26 – 30: Digital access is available by subscription only: See **TICKET INFORMATION**, below, for more details.) For tickets and additional information, contact the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424, in person at 301 Mercer Street, or online 24/7 at PNB.org.

The program line-up includes [follow select hyperlinks for additional info]:

Little mortal jump

Music: Beirut, Andrew Bird's Bowl of Fire, Alexandre Desplat, Philip Glass, Hans Otte, Max Richter, Tom Waits and Kathleen Brennan
Choreography: [Alejandro Cerrudo](#)
Staging: Ana Lopez & Pablo Piantino
Scenic Design: Alejandro Cerrudo
Costume Design: Branimira Ivanova
Lighting Design: Michael Korsch
Premiere: March 15, 2012, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago
PNB Premiere: March 18, 2016
Running time: 26 minutes

Little mortal jump is a bubbling blend of different styles and genres that distills into a fluid, cohesive whole. It fuses the technicality of movement, the theatricality of the stage, and the dark humor inherent in relationships. Cerrudo aims to transport his audience, to “make them forget what they did today, and what they will do tomorrow.” From cubes that serve as frames and obstructions to vastly contrasting music, *Little mortal jump* is layered with unexpected twists and turns. [Notes (excerpted) courtesy of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago.]

Red Angels

Music: Richard Einhorn
Choreography: [Ulysses Dove](#)
Staging: Peter Boal
Costume Design: Holly Hynes
Lighting Design: Mark Stanley
Premiere: May 9, 1994, New York City Ballet
PNB Premiere: September 17, 2005
Running time: 14 minutes

Red Angels is a ballet of intense dramatic impact; Dressed in scarlet leotards and bathed in white and red hot light, four dancers perform with powerful athleticism to a riveting score for electric violin (Richard Einhorn's *Maxwell's Demon*.) Ulysses Dove commented on working with the dancers of New York City Ballet: “I wanted to deal with aspects of the Balanchine aesthetic I find appealing: the speed, the leginess, the formality. As for the title, I think the dancers are angelic. And for me, the angels of the senses are red.” [Notes (excepted) by Doug Fullington.]

Firebird

Music: [Igor Stravinsky](#)
Choreography: [Kent Stowell](#)
Scenic Design: [Ming Cho Lee](#)
Costume Design: [Theoni V. Aldredge](#)
Lighting Design: [Randall G. Chiarelli](#)
Premiere: September 29, 1989; Pacific Northwest Ballet at Kennedy Center
Running time: 37 minutes

Ever since impresario Serge Diaghilev masterminded the original *Firebird* in 1910 for his Ballets Russes, the story of the legendary creature who helps two noble lovers overcome an evil wizard has captivated audiences and artists alike. With an iridescent score by Igor Stravinsky (his first for ballet), opulent sets and costumes, and startlingly innovative choreography by Michel Fokine, that first *Firebird* helped to shape ballet's modern identity and to establish it unequivocally as a serious art form.

Pacific Northwest Ballet's production, which Kent Stowell conceived in 1989 in collaboration with designers Ming Cho Lee and Theoni Aldredge, both honors and revitalizes that tradition. Lee's sets, Aldredge's costumes, and Stowell's choreography combine with Stravinsky's matchless score to create a spectacle that is faithful to the aesthetic spirit of the original. But the scenario has been modified somewhat so as to eliminate a weakness that, for all its popularity, has always beset the ballet, whether in

Fokine's original or in numerous later versions. In all of these, Tsarevich Ivan's relationship with the Firebird is what engages us most, and the human drama of his love for the Princess is of lesser emotional and theatrical interest. As a result, according to Stowell, when the grand wedding/coronation finale occurs, it is unsatisfying because we have no sense of what the lovers have risked to achieve this victory.

In PNB's production, the balance has been righted. The love between Ivan and the Princess is more poignant and tender from its inception, and it now clearly motivates the couple during the skirmish with the monsters and Kastchei. As a result, we are more engrossed in the dynamics and consequences of the relationship. When the Firebird does return to help the lovers, she seems less a supernatural agent acting independently than a source of inspiration deep within Ivan himself that he draws on to complete the battle. As a result, the grand finale has added power, because it is the earned reward for love's ordeal.

Premiering during PNB's September 1989 performances at the Kennedy Center, *Firebird* was first seen by Seattle audiences in May 1990 and was a popular hit during the Goodwill Games Arts Festival later that year. [Notes (excerpted) by Jeanie Thomas.]

SPECIAL EVENTS

PNB CONVERSATIONS & DRESS REHEARSAL

Thursday, March 12, 5:30 pm

Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall

Join PNB Artistic Director Peter Boal, in conversation with retiring principal dancer Lucien Postlewaite. PNB Conversations offer in-depth interviews with artists involved in putting our repertory on stage. Attend the Conversations event only or stay for the dress rehearsal of **FIREBIRD**. Tickets (suggested donation of \$25) are available through the PNB Box Office.

BALLET TALK

Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall

Join dance historian Doug Fullington for a 30-minute introduction to each performance, including discussions of choreography, music, history, design, and the process of bringing ballet to the stage. One hour before performances. FREE for ticketholders.

MEET THE ARTIST

Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall

Skip the post-show traffic and enjoy a Q&A with Artistic Director Peter Boal and PNB dancers, immediately following each performance. FREE for ticketholders.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets to PNB's live and/or digital performances may be purchased through the PNB Box Office:

- Phone - 206.441.2424
- In Person - 301 Mercer Street at Seattle Center
- Online 24/7 - PNB.org

Subject to availability, tickets are also available 90 minutes prior to each performance at McCaw Hall. Advance tickets through the PNB Box Office are strongly suggested for best prices and greatest availability.

Tickets for the live performances of **FIREBIRD** are \$44 - \$248, with discounts available for children 14 and under. Groups of ten or more may enjoy discounts up to 20% off regular prices (not valid on lowest-priced tickets or combined with other offers): Visit PNB.org/season/group-sales for more info.

PNB offers select **audio-described performances** for visually impaired and blind patrons at \$20 per ticket. The audio-described performance of **FIREBIRD** is Saturday, March 21 at 2:00 pm. To access the

Audio Dance Description pricing, visit PNB.org/Accessibility. PNB's Audio Dance Description program is generously underwritten by the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. Thanks also to Darkroom Ballet, Seattle Public Libraries, L.E.A.P., Seattle Cultural Accessibility Consortium (SCAC), and PNB's I.D.E.A. Committee for support of this program.

PNB's **digital presentation** of **FIREBIRD** (March 26 – 30) is available by subscription only. For tickets and more information, [click here](#). (Some digital season programming may vary from the onstage performances.)

For information about **special ticket offers** including group discounts, The Pointe, Pay-What-You-Can, rush tickets, Beer and Ballet night, TeenTix, and more, visit PNB.org/offers.

Caveat Emptor: Like many performing arts, PNB struggles with ticket resellers. At their most mundane, third-party sites snap up less expensive tickets and sell them for a profit. At their most dastardly, they sometimes sell invalid tickets. To enjoy the ballet at the best prices available, always purchase tickets directly from PNB. Suspected ticket scams should be reported to the Better Business Bureau.

Health, Safety, and Accessibility: Masks are still encouraged but not required as part of the PNB audience experience. For details and info regarding PNB's current health and safety policies, visit PNB.org/Health. For information on McCaw Hall accessibility, visit PNB.org/Accessibility.

The show must go on: Pacific Northwest Ballet is committed to honoring its performance calendar. Performances will not be cancelled for weather, traffic, or acts of Congress. In the unlikely event that the status of a performance does change, an announcement will be posted on PNB.org.

Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2026 performances of **FIREBIRD** are generously supported by Leslie Yamada. The 2016 PNB premiere of Alejandro Cerrudo's *Little mortal jump* was underwritten by Jeffrey and Susan Brotman. The refurbishment of Kent Stowell's *Firebird* is supported by Sally Maimoni, Alison Heald & Al Lee, Olga Darlington, Stephen & Beverly Fuhs, Len Sorrin & Kay Deasy, Laura Peterson, and other generous individuals. PNB's 2026 performances of *Red Angels* are supported by Katherine Graubard & William Calvin.

Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2025-26 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*.

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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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