

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 2016

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Pacific Northwest Ballet Announces “American Stories Project” in Conjunction with AMERICAN STORIES Performances.

Read them all, and submit your own, at PNB.org/Stories.

AMERICAN STORIES

SEATTLE, WA – In conjunction with its upcoming run of AMERICAN STORIES, Pacific Northwest Ballet has launched the “American Stories Project,” an opportunity for members of the PNB family and greater Seattle community to share their own “American stories.” These personal narratives are currently featured on the PNB blog at www.PNB.org/Stories.

“We all have stories – incredible stories and no two are alike, and yet the intersections and effects of one upon the other make a fascinating tapestry that becomes our community and in turn our country,” said PNB Artistic Director Peter Boal. “AMERICAN STORIES offers three ballets by three choreographers who found inspiration in the American culture. We have taken a cue from them and are looking at our own stories. They come from kids in our school, members of our company, leaders in our community, and friends and family. People tell their own and those of other members of their family. One tells the story of being from an indigenous tribe who lived on this land before it had a name; another tells of a blight in our history when a relative was forced to live in a Japanese internment camp. There are stories of discrimination, acceptance, hardships and joy, citizenship, recognition of marriage, and of earning the right to vote or to change gender. Telling and listening to each other’s stories helps to create a society of understanding and acceptance. Think about your stories and those around you and let’s celebrate our collective American story.”

For AMERICAN STORIES, the final program of its 44th season, PNB presents a triple bill featuring three of the world’s greatest choreographers – George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, and Twyla Tharp – and their distinctive takes on the American landscape. Balanchine’s homage to American folk dancing, *Square Dance*, is joined by Robbins’ *Fancy Free* (the inspiration for the musical *On the Town*) and, back by popular demand, Tharp’s made-for-PNB *Waiting at the Station*, featuring music by the late, great jazz legend Allen Toussaint.

In his program notes for the AMERICAN STORIES playbill, Mr. Boal shares some of the “American stories” of these three iconic choreographers, as well as choreographer Christopher Wheeldon’s tale about coming to this country: “Laid up on his couch in London with a sprained ankle, the young dancer with the Royal Ballet saw an advertisement on television offering free roundtrip airfare to America for the first batch of customers to buy a Hoover vacuum cleaner. Chris knew there was a hardware store on the corner selling Hoovers and grabbed his crutches. A few months later, he landed in New York and never left. From a Brit in New York to a Tony for *An American in Paris*.” Excerpts of ten other stories are featured in the AMERICAN STORIES playbill: They are included in their entirety online, along with two dozen others, including submissions from PNB dancers, musicians, and administrative staff, as well as members of the community including choreographer Kate Wallich; former Washington Supreme Court Judge Rosselle Pekelis; and President and CEO of ArtsFund, Mari Horita. All of their stories can be read at www.PNB.org/Stories. Readers are also invited to submit their own stories and photos.

AMERICAN STORIES runs for seven performances only, June 3 through 12 at Seattle Center’s Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. Tickets start at \$30. For tickets or more information, contact the PNB Box Office at 206.441.2424, in person at 301 Mercer Street, or online at PNB.org.

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AMERICAN STORIES is made possible by major sponsor Peter & Peggy Horvitz, and supporting sponsor Perkins Coie, as well as media sponsor KUOW. The 2006 PNB premiere of Jerome Robbins’ *Fancy Free* was generously underwritten in part by Glenn Kawasaki. The works of George Balanchine performed by Pacific Northwest Ballet (including *Square Dance*) are made possible in part by The Louise Nadeau Endowed Fund. The 2013 world premiere of Twyla Tharp’s *Waiting at the Station* was generously underwritten by Peter & Peggy Horvitz.

Pacific Northwest Ballet’s 2015-2016 season is proudly sponsored by ArtsFund and Microsoft. Season-long sponsorship also provided by 4Culture.

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Schedule and programming subject to change. For further information, please visit PNB.org.

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