

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2010-2011 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PENNSYLVANIA BALLET ANNOUNCES DAZZLING 2010-2011 SEASON WITH A FRENCH FLAIR!

HIGHLIGHTS:

World Premieres by Benjamin Millepied and Matthew Neenan

Company Premieres of *Carmen*, *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude*, and *Polyphonia*

Return of Christopher Wheeldon's *Swan Lake*

**Collaboration with The Philadelphia Orchestra
at the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts**



Philadelphia, PA (June 17, 2010) – Pennsylvania Ballet Artistic Director Roy Kaiser announces a breathtaking and innovative 2010-2011 Season: a dynamic collection of lush narrative ballets, thrilling contemporary pieces, Balanchine treasures, and brand new works. A landmark appearance at the first-ever Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts in April 2011 makes Pennsylvania Ballet's 47th Season like no other in the Company's history.

The 2010-2011 Season features three eclectic repertory programs, two classic full-length ballets, and the critically-acclaimed production of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*™. World premieres by Choreographer in Residence Matthew Neenan and New York City Ballet Principal Dancer Benjamin Millepied will augment the repertoire, as will Company premieres from William Forsythe, Roland Petit, and Christopher Wheeldon. The Company will also present Wheeldon's *Swan Lake*, handmade for its 40th Anniversary Season.

In crafting this new season, Kaiser aimed to showcase the breadth of the Company's repertoire as well as the dancers' skill and artistry, engaging both loyal followers and new ballet-goers alike.

"When you look at this season, you can see an incredible diversity in the various choreographic styles the dancers of this Company are able to perform at an extremely high level," Kaiser says. "On each program, audiences will come away with a very different impression of the Company, and when you put them all together, it's pretty extraordinary."

After constructing the 2010-2011 Season, Kaiser stepped back and noticed a theme *très intéressant* had emerged. Nearly all the programs have ties to the culturally-rich country of France. The fiery *Carmen* and a World Premiere are both courtesy of renowned French-born choreographers, and Christopher Wheeldon's *Swan Lake* and the original *La Fille mal gardée* are set in France. Plus, apart from the regular season of six productions, the Company will perform a brand new version of the classic French ballet *Pulcinella* at the first-ever Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts where the theme is Paris: 1910-1920.

While he didn't set out to weave a French thread through the 2010-2011 Season, Kaiser candidly admits, "If I *had* sought to inject a French theme into the season, it probably wouldn't look much different than it does now!"

To experience Pennsylvania Ballet's inspiring 2010-2011 Season, call 215.893.1955 or visit paballet.org. **Individual tickets go on sale July 6, 2010.**

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET'S 2010-2011 SEASON

**Denotes Company Premiere*

***Carmen* Triple Bill**

October 21-24, 2010

Academy of Music

- ***Concerto Barocco*** by George Balanchine, music by Johann Sebastian Bach
- **World Premiere** by Matthew Neenan, Choreographer in Residence
- ***Carmen**** by Roland Petit, music by Georges Bizet

Concerto Barocco is itself a piece of Pennsylvania Ballet history. The first ballet George Balanchine ever gave the Company, *Concerto Barocco* was featured in Pennsylvania Ballet's very first performance in 1963. Clean, pure, and exhilarating, *Concerto Barocco*'s unfettered choreography follows no plot but is a near-perfect reflection of the score crafted by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Pennsylvania Ballet's own Choreographer in Residence Matthew Neenan creates a **world premiere** work, his 13th commission for the Company. Says Artistic Director Roy Kaiser, "Matthew hasn't fallen into the trap of just relying on what works. I think that's a sign of a good choreographer. He's always looking for something new and a new way to present dance."

French-born choreographer Roland Petit's seductive ***Carmen*** is an irresistible blend of sensuality, theatricality, and style. Inspired by the famous opera of the same name, *Carmen* follows the torrid and tragic affair between its temptress title character and her lover, Don José. *Carmen*'s fiery movement and unbridled passion leave audiences breathless.

Carmen Triple Bill: a simply sizzling evening of ballet not to be missed!

George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™

Music by Peter Ilyitch Tschaikovsky

December 4-31, 2010

Academy of Music

Presented by PNC Arts Alive

The holidays in Philadelphia are not complete without Pennsylvania Ballet's production of ***George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™***! An enduring tradition now in its 42nd year, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™* boasts enchanting characters, lavish costumes and sets, world-class dancing, and a heart-warming Tschaikovsky score complemented by the Philadelphia Boys Choir. This classic has never failed to attract big audiences. Be warned: the more often you see it, the more you'll enjoy it! **Tickets to *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™* are on sale now.**

Classic Innovations

February 3-6, 2011

Merriam Theater

- ***The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude**** by William Forsythe, music by Franz Schubert
- ***Polyphonia**** by Christopher Wheeldon, music by György Ligeti
- ***In the Upper Room*** by Twyla Tharp, music by Philip Glass, arrangement by Kurt Munkacsi

Audiences were thrilled by the Company premiere of William Forsythe's *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated* last season. Now Pennsylvania Ballet is bringing the choreographer's energizing ***The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude*** into the repertoire. Here, the modern master manipulates ballet technique into a powerful, contemporary work. Vibrant costumes including futuristic, plate-like tutus are a hallmark of this piece by a prolific choreographer.

Bold and stripped-down, ***Polyphonia*** has helped solidify Christopher Wheeldon's place among the great choreographers of today. The polyphony (variety of sounds) of the Ligeti score is mirrored by Wheeldon's mix of ballet and modern steps. Inventive partnering highlights this abstract masterpiece fashioned for the 21st century.

Twyla Tharp's theatrical ***In the Upper Room*** is a tour-de-force of energy and finesse. Phillip Glass' thundering score propels this rigorous display of continuous, in-your-face athleticism. Wearing running shoes or ballet slippers, two groups of dancers shift through a stage filled with billows of smoke, their steps ranging from classical to unconventional.

Classic Innovations unites three of today's strongest choreographic voices for one cutting-edge program. It's dance at its best: inventive, unrestrained, jubilant, and highly entertaining.

Swan Lake by Christopher Wheeldon

Music by Peter Ilyitch Tschaikovsky

March 3-12, 2011

Academy of Music

Premiered in 2004 to national acclaim, Christopher Wheeldon's stellar production of *Swan Lake* was created and performed to sold-out audiences for Pennsylvania Ballet's 40th Anniversary Season. Wheeldon's *Swan Lake* is based on the original Ivanov/Petipa classic and set to the timeless Tchaikovsky score but has been re-imagined for today's audiences. The million-dollar production features spectacular sets and costumes set in the 19th-century milieu of the Paris Opera Ballet of Edgar Degas. Dazzling choreography and visual complexities illuminate this version of the world's most beloved ballet.

Building on Balanchine

April 14-17, 2011

Merriam Theater

- *Agon* by George Balanchine, music by Igor Stravinsky
- **World Premiere** by Benjamin Millepied
- *Who Cares?* by George Balanchine, music by George Gershwin

Agon is an organic collaboration between choreographer George Balanchine and composer Igor Stravinsky, who together designed the structure of this ballet during the creation of the score: 12 pieces of music for 12 dancers. Minimalist costumes and sets let Balanchine's choreography take center stage. The ballet takes its name from the Greek word for "contest" or "struggle," and was lauded by Balanchine himself for its striking precision.

Renowned French-born choreographer Benjamin Millepied creates his first **world premiere** for Pennsylvania Ballet. Currently a Principal Dancer at New York City Ballet, Millepied offers both a fresh perspective and inspiration from his mentor, choreographer Jerome Robbins, one of Balanchine's colleagues.

Who Cares? brings a bit of Broadway to ballet. The lively George Gershwin score features beloved classics like "The Man I Love" and "I Got Rhythm." An enchanting, fun-filled ode to the 1930's, *Who Cares?* sends audiences from the theater feeling energized.

Pennsylvania Ballet honors its heritage with **Building on Balanchine**, showcasing the supreme talents of its dancers to perfection.

La Fille mal gardée by Sir Frederick Ashton

Music by Ferdinand Hérold, adaptation and arrangement by John Lanchbery

June 2-11, 2011

Academy of Music

La Fille mal gardée (loosely translated from French as "The Wayward Daughter") is Sir Frederick Ashton's touching tale of two determined lovers and their quest to marry. Lise, the young daughter of a wealthy farmer, wishes to marry Colas, a handsome, young farm worker, but her mother, Mother Simone (who, in the tradition of English theater, is played by a man) disapproves. Set along a backdrop of simple country life, this uplifting ballet is brimming with charming characters (including dancing hens!), hilarious antics, and memorable dances – a delightful romantic comedy.

Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts

April 7-10, 2011

Kimmel Center

***Pulcinella*, a world premiere by Jorma Elo**

Music by Igor Stravinsky

Collaboration between Pennsylvania Ballet and The Philadelphia Orchestra

Pennsylvania Ballet is honored to be featured in a landmark cultural event: the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA). This three-week celebration of art opens with a historic collaborative performance between the Company and The Philadelphia Orchestra. Pennsylvania Ballet will share the stage of Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall with The Philadelphia Orchestra. Jorma Elo, resident choreographer at Boston Ballet, will create a world premiere version of the classic French ballet *Pulcinella*, featuring the music of Igor Stravinsky, especially for this once-in-a-lifetime series of performances.

Join the movement... subscribe!

2010-2011 Season subscriptions are on sale now at 215.893.1955 and at paballet.org. Save up to 30% with a full season subscription, starting at \$109.80. Subscribers enjoy the best seats at the best prices, personalized service, lost ticket insurance, flexible ticket exchanges, a brand new monthly payment plan, discounted parking, and priority seating for *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*™.

Group Tickets

Groups of 10 or more receive great discounts and perks! Ask about backstage tours, special talks with staff and dancers, dining options near the theater, and holiday parties for your group. For tickets and more information, contact Group Sales Manager Arajua Backman at 215.587.6921 or abackman@paballet.org.

Beyond the Stage

For the 2010-2011 Season, Pennsylvania Ballet offers the opportunity to enrich your dance experience with two enlightening series. On opening night of each program, enjoy the brand new **Before the Curtain** series. Listen as dancers, choreographers, and other guests give an insider's view into Pennsylvania Ballet's performances, all while savoring a light dinner buffet. Before the Curtain is held on Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel at Broad and Locust streets. Before the Curtain can be added to a full series subscription for just \$150. Don't forget our ever-popular **Prologue** series, hosted by Artistic Director Roy Kaiser, is also available now on Friday evenings!

Connect with us!

Follow Pennsylvania Ballet on **Twitter**, **Facebook**, and **YouTube** to go behind-the-scenes. Visit the newly re-designed paballet.org. Plus, text "PABALLET" to 77950 to join MyPABallet and receive special offers and news about the Company!

In the Community

During the 2010-2011 Season, Pennsylvania Ballet's vital **Outreach and Education Department** will continue several initiatives through its award-winning *Accent on Dance* program, bringing ballet to children across the Philadelphia region. Since its inception over 13 years ago, *Accent on Dance* has served more than 125,000 students through tickets to Pennsylvania Ballet dress rehearsals and performances, after-school dance lessons, in-school performances by Pennsylvania Ballet II, educational workbooks about ballet, and more.

Board Challenge Grant

To help Pennsylvania Ballet sustain its mission, the Board of Trustees has issued a \$200,000 Challenge Grant. **The Board will match, one-to-one, all NEW and RENEWED gifts to the Annual Fund, up to a total of \$200,000.** Please join us in this exciting and meaningful undertaking to raise \$400,000 for the Company! Your gift will help us meet the Challenge and ensure that Pennsylvania Ballet remains a strong, world-class Company in the months and years ahead. Gifts received by July 31, 2010 will qualify.

The Company premiere of *Carmen* is made possible by a grant from The Pew Center for the Arts & Heritage through Dance Advance.

PNC Arts Alive is the presenting sponsor of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*TM.

Pulcinella is funded in part by and presented in partnership with the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA), a three-week festival inspired by the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, showcasing creativity, collaboration, and innovation throughout Philadelphia's artistic and cultural communities. For more information about PIFA programs and partners, visit PIFA.org.

Pennsylvania Ballet receives support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Founded in 1963 by Balanchine student and protégée Barbara Weisberger, **Pennsylvania Ballet** is one of the nation's leading ballet companies. Headquartered in Philadelphia, the Company's annual local season features six programs of classic favorites and new works, including the Philadelphia holiday tradition, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*TM. For more information, visit paballet.org or call 215.551.7000.

For further press information or to set up interviews, please contact:

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