

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2010-2011 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT

Marissa Montenegro, Public Relations Manager

Office: 215.587.6923

Cell: 215.873.7891

Fax: 215.551.7224

mmontenegro@paballet.org

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET AND PNC ARTS ALIVE PRESENT *GEORGE BALANCHINE'S THE NUTCRACKER*[™]

December 4 – 31 at the Academy of Music

Philadelphia, PA (November 4, 2010) – The stage is set for the Philadelphia region's most beloved holiday tradition as Pennsylvania Ballet and PNC Arts Alive present *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™]. An enduring production in its 42nd year, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™] returns to the Academy of Music at Broad and Locust Streets, December 4 through December 31, 2010.

"There's just nothing that compares to Balanchine's *Nutcracker*," Artistic Director Roy Kaiser says. "His choreography is a near-perfect reflection of the Tchaikovsky score. We're so proud to bring this production to Philadelphia audiences year after year."

Lavish sets and costumes bring the charming story of Marie and her Prince to life, beginning with a grand party scene where she receives her precious nutcracker. Follow the adventure as Marie dreams of a harrowing battle with the Mouse King, then travels through a glistening snow scene into the wondrous Land of the Sweets. The angelic sounds of the Philadelphia Boys Choir complement the spectacular Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra. Pennsylvania Ballet's luminous dancers and dozens of local dance students take center stage to the delight of nearly 50,000 people each year.

For the second year in a row, Pennsylvania Ballet and Independence Starts Here! will offer **Audio Description** (AD) for blind or low-vision patrons at a performance of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™]. AD, available on **Sunday, December 19 at 4 p.m.**, is a communication method that allows blind or low-vision patrons to listen to a live description of the visual elements of a production through an ear piece and small receiver. AD patrons will receive Braille and large-print programs and are invited backstage for a pre-show touch tour (or "sensory seminar") with the sets, props, and costumes. To register and purchase tickets for the AD performance of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™] on Sunday, December 19 at 4 p.m. at the Academy of Music, contact Group Sales Manager Arajua Backman at 215.587.6921 or abackman@paballet.org.

Tickets to all 24 performances of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™] are on sale now, with prices ranging from \$30 to \$139. Tickets are available online at paballet.org, by phone at 215.893.1999, and in person at the Kimmel Center Box Office.

Pennsylvania Ballet and PNC Arts Alive Present *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™]

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George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™ performances at the Academy of Music:

- Saturday, December 4 at 7 p.m.
- Sunday, December 5 at noon and 4 p.m.
- Saturday, December 11 at 11 a.m.*, 3 p.m., and 7 p.m.
- Sunday, December 12 at noon and 4 p.m.
- Friday, December 17 at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, December 18 at 11 a.m.*, 3 p.m., and 7 p.m.
- Sunday, December 19 at noon* and 4 p.m.
- Thursday, December 23 at 2 p.m.*
- Friday, December 24 at noon
- Sunday, December 26 at noon and 4 p.m.
- Monday, December 27 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 28 at 2 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 29 at 2 p.m.*
- Thursday, December 30 at 2 p.m.*
- Friday, December 31 at noon

*Nutcracker VIP Package available at these performances (see below)

Groups of 10 or more receive great discounts and unique 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.

Make your memories extra special with the **Nutcracker VIP Package!**

This \$160 package includes:

- Preferred box seating for select performances*
- *Nutcracker* souvenir book
- Keepsake photo with the Sugarplum Fairy or Mouse King
- 10% off purchases at our lobby gift shop

To order the Nutcracker VIP Package, contact Group Sales Manager Arajua Backman at 215.587.6921 or abackman@paballet.org.

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET'S SPECIAL HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

“NUTCRACKER MAGIC” CHILDREN’S PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT NOON

HYATT AT THE BELLEVUE AND ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Don't miss Pennsylvania Ballet's glorious holiday party, a family tradition for the past 23 years. Children will be charmed by entertainers, crafts, games, and costumed characters like the Sugarplum Fairy and the Mouse King, plus a delicious lunch, all inside the magnificent ballroom of the Hyatt at the Bellevue. Following the food and festivities, guests will enjoy a private performance of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™* at the Academy of Music at 2 p.m. This annual party is co-chaired this year by Ali Bruder of Malvern, Ellen Caplan of Villanova, and Margaret Anne Nolen of Newtown Square.

Nutcracker Magic guests are encouraged to bring unwrapped toys to donate to Cradles to Crayons, and all children will be invited to make a holiday card for a patient at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Tickets to Nutcracker Magic are \$150 or \$250, and sponsorship opportunities are available from \$500 to \$5,000. All sponsors receive free *Nutcracker* performance tickets to donate to the charity of their choice. Tickets to the 2 p.m. private performance only are available for \$85. For more information and tickets, contact Special Events Manager Barbara Vogdes at 215.587.6916 or bvogdes@paballet.org, or visit paballet.org.

TEA WITH THE SUGARPLUM FAIRY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT 2 P.M. (CHOOSE THE NOON OR 4 P.M. PERFORMANCE)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 1 P.M. (CHOOSE THE 11 A.M. OR 3 P.M. PERFORMANCE)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 1 P.M. (CHOOSE THE 11 A.M. OR 3 P.M. PERFORMANCE)

DOUBLETREE HOTEL

Enjoy a performance of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*TM, and meet the Sugarplum Fairy for a special tea at the Doubletree Hotel, just across the street from the Academy of Music! Prices start at \$90 and include a performance ticket and a delectable buffet. To order, contact Group Sales Manager Arajua Backman at 215.587.6921 or abackman@paballet.org, or visit paballet.org.

FAMILY MATINEE SERIES "FAMILY DAY" -- BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 1 P.M. (CHOOSE THE 11 A.M. OR 3 P.M. PERFORMANCE)

DOUBLETREE HOTEL

The performances of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*TM on Saturday, December 11 at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. are part of Pennsylvania Ballet's Family Matinee Series and include free Family Day activities at the Doubletree Hotel, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. This fun afternoon of entertainment, games, and crafts, as well as autograph opportunities with your favorite dancers, keeps the magic of the performance alive long after the curtain closes. To order a Family Matinee Series subscription, including *Swan Lake* in March and *La Fille mal gardée* in June, please call 215.893.1955 or visit paballet.org

THE NUTCRACKER BRUNCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 1 P.M. (PERFORMANCE AT 4 P.M.)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 1 P.M. (PERFORMANCE AT 4 P.M.)

THE OMNI HOTEL AT INDEPENDENCE PARK

Celebrate the holidays with special visits from the Sugarplum Fairy, Mouse King, and Santa Claus while savoring a gourmet buffet with the entire family. A performance ticket, the buffet, and valet parking at the Omni Hotel are included for \$129. To order, contact Group Sales Manager Arajua Backman at 215.587.6921 or abackman@paballet.org, or visit paballet.org.

CHILDREN'S ENCHANTMENT FUND

Give the gift of ballet this holiday season! Pennsylvania Ballet's Children's Enchantment Fund enables underserved families to see *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*TM free of charge. One performance ticket is distributed for every \$30 tax-deductible donation. To make a donation, please call Annual Fund Manager Christina Freeman at 215.587.6913 or visit paballet.org.

Join the movement... subscribe! 2010-2011 Season subscriptions are on sale now at 215.893.1955 and at paballet.org. Subscribers enjoy the best seats at the best prices, personalized service, lost ticket insurance, flexible ticket exchanges, discounted parking, and priority seating for *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*TM.

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 our mobile club, **MyPABallet**, and receive special offers and news about the Company!

*George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*TM is presented by PNC Arts Alive.

PECO is a production sponsor of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*TM.

The costumes and sets of Pennsylvania Ballet's new production of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*TM were made possible by major support from The William Penn Foundation and Christa and Calvin Schmidt.

Pennsylvania Ballet's 2010-2011 Season sponsors include The Omni Hotel at Independence Park, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Sporting Club at the Bellevue, and US Airways.

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.

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