

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

2011-2012 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pennsylvania Ballet Presents Pushing Boundaries: Forsythe & Neenan

The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude by William Forsythe

Keep by Matthew Neenan

11:11 by Matthew Neenan

February 9-12 at the Merriam Theater

Philadelphia, PA (January 12, 2012) – Pennsylvania Ballet presents Pushing Boundaries: Forsythe & Neenan, a dynamic program of three contemporary works, February 9-12, 2012 at the Merriam Theater at 250 South Broad Street.

"Our dancers have an incredible ability to master not only the classics, but also contemporary work," Artistic Director Roy Kaiser says. "This program showcases both their athleticism and dramatic talents in a beautiful way."

William Forsythe's powerhouse *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* returns to Pennsylvania Ballet's stage after an exhilarating Company premiere last February. Five dancers interpret the last movement of Schubert's Ninth Symphony with seemingly incomprehensible speed and precision.

Choreographer in Residence Matthew Neenan creates poignant magic with his acclaimed work, *Keep*. Commissioned in 2009, *Keep* delves into the challenges of love and relationships through passionate pas de deux. An intimate, sensitive piece, *Keep* features vibrant costumes designed by former Principal Dancer Martha Chamberlain.

Mr. Neenan completes the evening with *11:11*, set to six songs from singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright. In earth-toned costumes also designed by Ms. Chamberlain, the cast of twenty performs to such sultry songs as "Vibrate" and "Greek Song" and the engaging melodies "Poses" and "Oh What a World."

Pushing Boundaries: Forsythe & Neenan will be the last chance to see **Principal Dancer Riolama Lorenzo** perform. After 15 years on stage, Ms. Lorenzo will retire with a performance of Mr. Neenan's *Keep* on Sunday, February 12 at 2 p.m. Ms. Lorenzo will also be the guest speaker at the next Conversations with Pennsylvania Ballet – a free, public discussion series – on Monday, January 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Philadelphia City Institute Library at 19th & Locust Streets.

Tickets to Pushing Boundaries: Forsythe & Neenan are on sale now, with prices ranging from \$20 to \$140. Tickets are available online at paballet.org, by phone at 215.893.1999, and in person at the Kimmel Center Box Office.

Pushing Boundaries: Forsythe & Neenan performances at the Merriam Theater:

- Thursday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, February 10 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, February 11 at 2 p.m.
- Saturday, February 11 at 8 p.m.
- Sunday, February 12 at 2 p.m.

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

2012 Spring Season mini-pack memberships are on sale now at 215.893.1955 and at paballet.org. Save up to 20% on single ticket prices. Customize your package by selecting three or four ballets, dates, and seat locations. Members enjoy the best seats at the best prices, personalized service, lost ticket insurance, flexible ticket exchanges, a monthly payment plan, discounted parking, and more!

Connect with us! Follow Pennsylvania Ballet on **Twitter**, **Facebook**, and **YouTube** to go behind-the-scenes anytime, day or night.

Pennsylvania Ballet's 2011-2012 Season sponsors include DoubleTree by Hilton, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Sporting Club at the Bellevue, and US Airways.

Pennsylvania Ballet receives support from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development; and The Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

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™*. For more information, visit paballet.org or call 215.551.7000.