

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2010-2011 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pennsylvania Ballet Presents Christopher Wheeldon's *Swan Lake*

March 3-12 at the Academy of Music

Philadelphia, PA (February 11, 2011) –Pennsylvania Ballet brings the world's most famous ballet, *Swan Lake*, to the Academy of Music stage, March 3-12, 2011. Fred Alger Management is the presenting sponsor.

Premiered in 2004 to national acclaim, world-renowned choreographer Christopher Wheeldon's stellar production of *Swan Lake* was commissioned and performed to sold-out audiences for the Company's 40th anniversary season. This success led to an invitation to present the ballet at the prestigious Edinburgh International Festival in 2005, where Pennsylvania Ballet made its international debut. Tickets to this 2011 engagement are selling fast.

"*Swan Lake* is perhaps the most recognizable ballet in the world. Christopher's production beautifully pays homage to the ballet's great heritage while highlighting his own boundless creativity," Artistic Director Roy Kaiser says.

In a true case of art imitating life, dancers from Pennsylvania Ballet took their talents from stage to screen with their performance in the Academy Award-nominated film "Black Swan." Starring Natalie Portman and directed by Darren Aronofsky, the film is a dramatic thriller centered on a ballet company performing a new version of *Swan Lake*. Film fans now have the opportunity to see the dancers of "Black Swan" perform live.

Wheeldon's *Swan Lake* is based on the original Lev Ivanov and Marius Petipa classic from 1895 and set to the timeless Tchaikovsky score but has been re-imagined for today's audiences. Wheeldon compares this creative process to "resetting an old diamond heirloom into a contemporary setting." 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 ballet's greatest love story. *Swan Lake* tells of a young prince, Siegfried, and his love for the Swan Queen, Odette. Transformed into a swan by an evil sorcerer, Odette is destined to remain a swan unless she is rescued by true love.

Tickets to *Swan Lake* are on sale now, with prices ranging from \$20 to \$139. Tickets are available online at paballet.org, by phone at 215.893.1999, or in person at the Kimmel Center

Box Office. Groups of 10 or more receive great discounts and perks through Group Sales Manager Arajua Backman at 215.587.6921 or abackman@paballet.org.

Swan Lake performances at the Academy of Music:

- Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 5 at noon and 8 p.m.
- Sunday, March 6 at 2 p.m.
- Saturday, March 12 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The **Swan Lake Auction** allows guests to take a walk down the red carpet and meet the stars of Pennsylvania Ballet on Friday, March 11 at the Academy of Music. Bid on one-of-a-kind items like the chance to watch a performance from the wings or a walk-on role in *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™*! Cocktails and a silent auction in the Academy's exquisite ballroom begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner on stage with the dancers among the magnificent *Swan Lake* sets. Tickets to this black tie event start at \$175 and tables start at \$3,000. For more information, contact Special Events Manager Barbara Vogdes at 215.587.6916 or bvogdes@paballet.org.

The **Taste of Paris Dinner Package** is an evening filled with French elegance available on Thursday, March 3. Guests begin with a four-course dining experience under crystal chandeliers at Georges Perrier's legendary Le Bec-Fin, located a few blocks from the Academy of Music. After dinner, guest will attend the Opening Night performance of *Swan Lake* at 7:30 p.m. Packages start at \$84.25 per person and include a performance ticket. Seating is available in the Parquet and Balcony sections. Dinner reservations must be for before 6 p.m. To order, contact Group Sales Manager Arajua Backman at 215.587.6921 or abackman@paballet.org.

Join the movement... subscribe! Spring 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, and discounted parking.

Connect with us! Follow Pennsylvania Ballet on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to go behind-the-scenes. Plus, text "PABALLET" to 77950 to join our mobile club, MyPABallet, and receive special offers and news about the Company.

The orchestral expenses for *Swan Lake* are supported by a generous gift from 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*[™]. For more information, visit paballet.org or call 215.551.7000.

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