

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2009 - 2010 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PENNSYLVANIA BALLET OPENING NIGHT GALA
HONORS KATHY AND GARY ANDERSON
CELEBRATES ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROY KAISER**

**Friday, October 23, 2009 at 6:30 PM
Gala Performance, Academy of Music
Black Tie Dinner, Park Hyatt at the Bellevue**

Pennsylvania Ballet, one of the premier ballet companies in the country, honors Chair Emerita Kathy Anderson and her husband Gary with a private performance and dancing with the Company at its annual black tie Gala. The opening night event also celebrates Roy Kaiser's 30th year with the Company and his 15th as Artistic Director.

"Kathy and Gary's dedication to the arts in Philadelphia and to Pennsylvania Ballet has been extraordinary," said Executive Director Michael Scolamiero. "We have been inspired and sustained by their visionary leadership and commitment to the Company. It is fitting that we honor them as we celebrate Roy's achievements. Together they have fostered an era of unprecedented artistic growth and critical acclaim that has placed Pennsylvania Ballet among the most select ballet companies in the country."

During Kathy Anderson's tenure as Board Chair, the Company added many new works, embarked on its first international tour and completed its first major capital campaign. The Andersons continue to collaborate closely with the Company while also supporting the work of other nonprofit institutions such as Project H.O.M.E., Indiana University, the Franklin Institute and Philadelphia Forward.

Roy Kaiser has spent his entire professional career with the Company, joining as an apprentice in 1979 and rising up through the ranks to become a principal dancer. He became Artistic Director in 1994 and for the past 15 years, he has focused on expanding the Company's repertoire and creating new work with emerging and established contemporary choreographers.

The 2009-2010 season is a culmination of those efforts with highly anticipated Company premieres by Jerome Robbins and William Forsythe, new work by Choreographer in Residence Matthew Neenan and the Company's seventh invitation to The Kennedy Center, joining the Bolshoi Ballet, the Mariinsky Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and New York City Ballet in the ballet season at that prestigious national venue.

The black tie Opening Night Gala will begin at the Academy of Music with a private performance of George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations* and Matthew Neenan's new work, *At the border*. Cocktails, dinner and dancing with the Company will follow at the Ballroom of the Park Hyatt at the Bellevue.

The 2009 Gala Committee is chaired by Sharon and Neal Bozentka and Linda and Steven Siegfried. The Young Friends Committee is chaired by Sarah and Adam Weinstein. Fred Alger Management is a Golden Sponsor for the event. Comcast Corporation is a Benefactor Sponsor along with Kathy and Gary Anderson.

Young Friends tickets, ages 35 and under, are available at \$175 per person and Patron tickets are \$350 per person. Benefactor and Grand Benefactor tickets, including VIP seating, are \$550 and \$750 per person respectively. Patron, Benefactor and Golden Sponsor tables are also available from \$3,500-\$10,000. For more information and tickets, contact Special Events Manager Barbara Vogdes at 215-587-6916.

Program I opens the new season, October 21-25 with George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*, the World Premiere of Matthew Neenan's *At the border* and Agnes de Mille's *Rodeo*. Tickets from \$24 are on sale at paballet.org, at the Kimmel Center box office or by phone at 215.893.1999

2009-2010 Season Subscriptions are now on sale at paballet.org or by calling 215.893.1955. Full Series, Matinee Series, and the Choreographers' Showcase start at \$54.50 and include subscriber benefits such as priority seating, flexible ticket exchanges, discounts to Philadelphia restaurants, shops, hotels, museums and more. Custom Packages of three or four ballets for any performance dates and times are also available starting at \$57.50.

New this year -- All subscribers will receive Artistic Director Roy Kaiser's monthly e-letter with exclusive inside news about his work with the Company.

Individual tickets to performances of George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker* at the Academy of Music are on sale now. Visit paballet.org or call 215.893.1999.

Pennsylvania Ballet is one of the premier ballet companies in the United States and has been at the forefront of American dance since 1963. A leading Philadelphia cultural institution, the Company has earned a national reputation for its impassioned artistry and technical virtuosity, and has received widespread critical acclaim for extraordinary performances of a diverse classical and contemporary repertoire. Under Artistic Director Roy Kaiser, the Company has expanded its Balanchine-based repertoire to include bold, innovative new works that embody creative excellence and engage audiences in an ongoing commitment to the vitality of this unique art form. For more information, call 215.551.7000, or visit paballet.org.

Join us in the studio, on the stage, and on your phone, 24/7. Follow us on Twitter,

Facebook, and YouTube.

Pennsylvania Ballet's 2009-2010 season sponsors include The Sporting Club at the Bellevue, US Airways, the Omni Hotel at Independence Park and the Inquirer.

PNC Arts Alive is a presenting sponsor of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker* at the Academy of Music.

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.

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

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