

# PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2009 - 2010 SEASON

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Photos are available upon request

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**PENNSYLVANIA BALLET INVITED TO PERFORM  
GEORGE BALANCHINE'S THE NUTCRACKER  
AT THE KENNEDY CENTER  
November 24 – 29, 2009**

Pennsylvania Ballet, one of the premier ballet companies in the country, has received an invitation to present the Washington, D.C. premiere of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*. The Company will perform this timeless holiday classic in the prestigious Opera House at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts November 24 – 29, 2009. Pennsylvania Ballet is one of the few companies nationwide licensed to perform Balanchine's preeminent *Nutcracker* ballet. To be the first to perform the Balanchine version in America's national cultural center is quite an honor. The Company's critically acclaimed performances of Jerome Robbins's *In the Night* as part of the Center's *Ballet Across America* series in June 2008 and a long-standing reputation of performing interesting work at the Kennedy Center helped pave the way for this engagement. "This is an unprecedented opportunity for us" says Artistic Director Roy Kaiser, "and a proud reflection of the remarkable achievements of this Company and its artists since it first performed at the Kennedy Center in 1979." For the Thanksgiving week production, Tschaikovsky's magnificent score will be performed by the celebrated Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. Since its opening, the Kennedy Center has presented some of the greatest performers from around the world, and serves as a living memorial to the 35<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and his vision for the arts in America.

In 2007, Pennsylvania Ballet unveiled a new production of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker* featuring all the splendor audiences expect: an opening party scene of families celebrating the holidays with 19<sup>th</sup> century charm; little Marie's dream of her Nutcracker Prince and his toy soldiers battling a fleet of mice led by the Mouse King; and the captivating divertissements in the Land of The Sweets. The enduring combination of Tschaikovsky's magical music, Balanchine's masterful choreography and the artistry of Pennsylvania Ballet's dancers leave audiences awestruck after every performance.

**Performances of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker* at the Kennedy Center are as follows:**

- Tuesday, November 24 at 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 25 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 27 at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, November 28 at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, November 29 at 1:30 p.m.

Tickets range from \$47 - \$150. The on-sale date has not been announced yet.

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 repertory favorites and new works, including the Philadelphia holiday tradition, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker* at the Academy of Music, December 12 – 31, 2009. For more information, call 215.551.7000 or visit [www.paballet.org](http://www.paballet.org).

**For further press information, images from *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*,  
or to set up interviews:**

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