

THE PORTLAND

NANCY DAVIS & ANNE MUELLER ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

BALLET

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The Portland Ballet Announces its 2017-18 Season

The Enchanted Toyshop by John Clifford

Tourbillon, new work by Anne Mueller

Both performed with the PSU Orchestra, under the direction of Ken Selden

November 24-26, 2017

Lincoln Performance Hall, PSU

Current/Classic

May 4-5, 2018

Lincoln Performance Hall, PSU

Up Close

June 8-10, 2018

TPB Studio Theatre

PORTLAND, Ore. – After last year’s sold-out shows, The Portland Ballet is reviving its holiday hit, “**The Enchanted Toyshop**,” to kick off its 2017-18 season. With three concerts over the year, TPB will also premiere at least two new works, feature a piece by acclaimed Portland choreographer **Josie Moseley**, bring back alumni to perform and choreograph, and showcase a mix of contemporary and classical.

Providing professionally produced performance experience has been at the core of TPB training since the company was founded in 2001. TPB continues to nurture stand-out dance talent for students ages 3-22, and many go on to professional companies and conservatory programs around the world.

THE ENCHANTED TOYSHOP AND TOURBILLON, November 24-26, 2017

The Portland Ballet is bringing back its hit “**The Enchanted Toyshop**” on Thanksgiving weekend in a double bill that will also feature a new ballet, “**Tourbillon**,” by co-artistic director **Anne Mueller**. **The Portland State University Orchestra**, under the direction of **Ken Selden**, will provide live music for both works.

Designed specifically for TPB by **John Clifford**, “**Toyshop**” charmingly showcases various skill levels and international dance styles. The magic begins when two children are accidentally locked in a toyshop, and Pinocchio reigns over a parade of toys that come to life to entertain the guests. Playing cards, poodles, Pierrots, and Russian nesting dolls are all part of the fast-paced fun. Since its premiere in 2003, “**Toyshop**” has become TPB’s signature showpiece, an enduring favorite for both family audiences and academy dancers.

In a review for **Oregon ArtsWatch** last year, dance critic **Martha Ullman West** said the show “offers comedy and pathos, fantasy and romance, a thoroughly satisfactory happily-ever-after-ending, and a lot of dancing.”

Mueller's celebratory new "**Tourbillon**" will showcase the advanced dancers in four pieces set to rarely heard music by Joseph Lanner, an Austrian dance composer from the early 1800s and predecessor of "The Waltz King," Johann Strauss II. Inspired by the look of Audrey Hepburn in "Breakfast at Tiffany's," costumes will be elegant and romantic, reminiscent of 1950s cotillion ballgowns, with long gloves and tiaras. The ballet will feature a large cast in two lovely waltz sections, a galop, and a polka.

Six concerts will be performed Nov. 24-26 at Lincoln Performance Hall at PSU. **Tickets** start at only \$5 and go on sale October 20.

CURRENT/CLASSIC, May 4-5, 2018

The academy's annual spring concert will be a mixed-repertoire program of contemporary and classical pieces. It will showcase the skills of TPB's advanced dancers in the Youth Company and pre-professional Career Track program. Featured works will include "**Us**" by Portland choreographer **Josie Moseley** and highlights of "**Donizetti Variations**" by **George Balanchine**.

Moseley created "**Us**" for TPB. When it premiered in 2015, **Ullman West** wrote in **Oregon ArtsWatch**: "The whole cast put heart, soul and body into Moseley's modern, grounded vocabulary. ... Moseley knows when to make use of abstraction in her choreography; the dancers added the eloquence."

TPB is one of only a handful of U.S. ballet schools linked to **The George Balanchine Trust**, which provides students the opportunity to perform works by the master choreographer.

Two concerts will take place at Lincoln Performance Hall at PSU.

UP CLOSE, June 8-10, 2018

In a gala style with many shorter pieces, "**Up Close**" will showcase TPB's pre-professional Career Track dancers and alumni who are now dancing in professional companies and conservatory programs around the country. TPB alumna **Caroline MacDonald**, now at Nevada Ballet Theatre, will premiere a new work. Last year's concerts with the Career Track dancers sold out early, and a program a few years ago that featured TPB alumni was incredibly popular.

Launched in 2015-16 and led by Mueller, TPB's Career Track program offers well-trained, advanced dancers with professional intent a setting that simulates a professional company experience.

Performances will be held at TPB's Studio Theatre, 6250 SW Capitol Highway in Portland.

THE PORTLAND BALLET

The Portland Ballet, led by artistic directors Nancy Davis and Anne Mueller, nurtures young dancers ages 3-22. TPB students are trained with professional intent by a faculty that includes some of the nation's finest dancers and choreographers, with experience at companies such as the National Ballet, the original Los Angeles Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Royal Danish Ballet, Trey McIntyre Project, and BodyVox. TPB graduates have gone on to professional dance careers with companies such as Grand Rapids Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Nevada Ballet Theatre, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Sacramento Ballet, Houston Ballet, St. Louis Ballet, Royal Swedish Ballet, Batsheva, LEV, Ballet Memphis, and Ballet West.

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