

THE PORTLAND

NANCY DAVIS & ANNE MUELLER ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

BALLET

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Laura Grimes, laura@theportlandballet.org, 971.322.9452

The Portland Ballet presents 'Current/Classic'

Contemporary and classical pieces showcase advanced dancers

DETAILS

Current/Classic

Dates: May 4-5, 2018

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Lincoln Performance Hall at PSU, 1620 SW Park at Market, Portland, OR

Tickets: Start at \$5

Runtime: 94 minutes, including two intermissions

Information: theportlandballet.org or 503-750-3157

Discounts:

- **Family Package:** For TIER 1 pricing, when purchasing two adult and two or more youth tickets, all youth tickets will be \$5 off
- **Group Discount:** 10 or more tickets will receive 10% off
- **Good deals:** Limited Arts Card and Arts for All tickets

PORTLAND, Ore. – [The Portland Ballet](http://ThePortlandBallet) presents *Current/Classic*, which showcases its advanced company dancers. The mixed-repertoire program of contemporary and classical pieces will feature *Us* by acclaimed Portland choreographer **Josie Moseley** and excerpts of *Donizetti Variations* by **George Balanchine**. Dancers will also perform *Everything Slightly Rosy* by co-artistic director **Anne Mueller**; *Secede*, a new piece by academy principal **Jason Davis**; the Vision Scene from *Sleeping Beauty*, a classical **Petipa** work; and pay tribute to the 25th anniversary of the death of **Dennis Spaight** with an excerpt of *Schubert Songs* and a duet from *Gloria*. Spaight was a principal dancer, associate artistic director, and resident choreographer at Oregon Ballet Theatre for many years.

PERFORMANCES

Two concerts will take place May 4-5, at 7:30 p.m., at Lincoln Performance Hall at Portland State University. Tickets start at only \$5. Information: theportlandballet.org or 503-750-3157.

Providing professionally produced performance experience has been at the core of TPB training since the company was founded in 2001. TPB nurtures stand-out dance talent, and many students go on to professional companies and conservatory programs around the world. These performances are rare opportunities to see the next generation of dance stars.

PROGRAM (in order of performance)

Sleeping Beauty Vision Scene

Pyotr Illich Tchaikovsky/Anne Mueller after Marius Petipa

The Lilac Fairy reveals a vision of Sleeping Beauty to the Prince, who becomes so enchanted that he's compelled to go to the castle to wake her. Fun fact: Mueller has performed three roles in this elegant ballet, including the evil Carabosse, who sets the story in motion.

Donizetti Variations (excerpts)

Gaetano Donizetti/George Balanchine

Balanchine created this sunny dance in 1960 as part of a New York City Ballet program to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Italy's unification. The ballet, which includes a lot of technically challenging allegro work, is staged by artistic advisor John Clifford. TPB is one of only a handful of U.S. ballet schools linked to The George Balanchine Trust, which provides students the opportunity to learn and perform works by the master choreographer.

Schubert Songs (excerpt)

Franz Schubert/Dennis Spaight

A charming, engaging neoclassical ballet, *Schubert Songs* was first performed by Oregon Ballet Theatre in 1989 in partnership with the Portland Gay Men's Chorus. TPB artistic advisor Carol Shults, who serves as a répétiteur for the Dennis Spaight Trust, says the choreographer's inspiration always started from music or rhythm, which stirs dancers to be an instrument. Though TPB has performed several of Spaight's works over the years, this is the first time it has performed *Schubert Songs*.

Gloria Duet

Antonio Vivaldi/Dennis Spaight

This neoclassical duet, originally commissioned by Richmond Ballet in 1983, springs from Vivaldi's rich, celebrated music. Spaight, who had great warmth and wit, designed carefully crafted choreography that has a keen musical sense. TPB has performed various excerpts from *Gloria* over the years, including the duet.

Us

Fiona Apple/Josie Moseley

Moseley created *Us* for TPB in 2015 to celebrate a group of students who had trained and performed together for many years and were graduating and going their separate ways. While she reset it on this new group of students, who are a variety of ages, she encouraged them to build themselves into the dance, step into it, be brave enough to discover themselves, and find the movement and let it inform them. When it premiered, Martha 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."

Everything Slightly Rosy

Penguin Café Orchestra/Anne Mueller

Inspired by the meditative nature of the music, Mueller choreographed this ballet for TPB in 2016. The musical structure challenged her to create layered nuances, which require self-control, restraint, and trust from the dancers to take something simple and turn it into something more.

Secede, a new work

Karl Jenkins/Jason Davis

Davis worked with the academy students to choreograph this contemporary ballet that is classically informed. The exciting patterns in the music build to explore different group dynamics, and inspire continually breaking away to discover new territory and coming back together.

THE PORTLAND BALLET

Founded in 2001, The Portland Ballet is shaped by the vision, artistic experience, and family-centered sensibility of the founding directors. **Artistic Director Nancy Davis** and **Executive Director Jim Lane** trained at the School of American Ballet and enjoyed distinguished professional careers in companies throughout the U.S. After retiring as principal dancers of the Los Angeles Ballet – where their partnership onstage led to a marriage and family off the stage – they moved to Portland, Oregon, and founded The Portland Ballet.

Artistic Director Anne Mueller joined the company in 2015 to lead TPB's Career Track program. Anne trained with Dame Sonia Arova and Thor Sutowski and came to TPB after fifteen years with Oregon Ballet Theatre, where she was a principal dancer. A co-founder of Trey McIntyre Project, Anne has extensive experience in choreographing and staging works across the United States.

TPB's Artistic Advisor John Clifford, a favored protégé of George Balanchine, works regularly with the students. Teaching approved dances from The George Balanchine Trust, Clifford provides a living connection to the most influential choreographer of modern times.

TPB's Artistic Advisor Carol Shults taught History of Ballet at Portland State University. She was an instructor and historian for Oregon Ballet Theatre, and was the founder of the "Performance Perspectives" lectures, a program she directed for eight years. She danced professionally with Texas Fort Worth Ballet, Fort Worth Opera, and Casa Manana Musicals. She has been on staff as a ballet faculty member and ballet mistress at prestigious schools and companies. Shults serves as a répétiteur for the Dennis Spaight Trust.

Graduates have carried TPB's reputation for excellence into advanced dance programs and professional companies throughout the U.S. and abroad. TPB alumni have gone on to dance with Pacific Northwest Ballet, Houston Ballet, Saint Louis Ballet, Sacramento Ballet, Ballet West, Nevada Ballet Theatre, Royal Swedish Ballet, Eugene Ballet, Batsheva Dance Company, Maryinsky Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, and other professional companies.

###