

THE PORTLAND

NANCY DAVIS & ANNE MUELLER ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

BALLET

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**The Portland Ballet
showcases its premier dancers
in a Studio Company Performance**

PROGRAM

Concerto in F (Third Movement, 1970), adapted by Nancy Davis after John Clifford, music by George Gershwin

La Bayadère Shades Trio (1877) by Marius Petipa, set by Anne Mueller, music by Ludwig Minkus

Heartaches (2008) by Anne Mueller, music by Patsy Cline

Rip/Tide (1998) by BodyVox directors Jamey Hampton and Ashley Roland, set by Zachary Carroll, music by Aphex Twin

Kúkátónón Children's African Dance Troupe – guest dancers and drummers

DETAILS

Dates: March 10-12, 2017

Times: 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 10; 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 11; and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 12

Tickets: \$10-\$25

Venue: The Portland Ballet Studio Theatre, 6250 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, OR

Information: theportlandballet.org or 503.750.3157

PORTLAND, OR – The Portland Ballet's premier dancers will star in a Studio Company Performance on March 10-12 at TPB's Portland studio, 6250 SW Capitol Highway. The special showcase will feature the company's Career Track dancers in three contemporary pieces that all have personal meanings for members of the creative team who have performed them, and one classical piece that will spotlight three of the company's youngest members, ages 12 and 13.

TPB is also proud and excited to celebrate its ongoing partnership with Kúkátónón Children's African Dance Troupe, who will perform for the first time at a TPB concert as special guests.

The nine TPB dancers, ranging in age from 12 to 19, come from all over the Pacific Northwest to study about 25-30 hours a week in TPB's top-level Career Track program, which trains students with professional intent. They come from Bellingham, Hillsboro, Idaho, Oregon City, Portland, Salem, Sherwood, and West Linn.

This is a rare chance to see TPB's superbly trained dancers in an intimate setting, with only 80 seats available per show. We highly recommend reserving seats early since past shows sold out.

CAREER TRACK PROGRAM

Launched in 2015-16, The Portland Ballet's Career Track program offers well-trained, advanced dancers with professional intent a setting that simulates a professional company experience. Students participate in an intense and personal learning environment with a rigorous schedule that requires about 25 to 30 hours of work a week. Artistic Director Anne Mueller leads the program with assistance from TPB's rich staff of teachers and choreographers. In addition to classes, rehearsals and performances, dancers receive supportive one-on-one evaluation and coaching in technique, performance skills and goal setting, as well as tools for auditioning, injury prevention, cross training and nutrition.

KÚKÁTÓNÓN CHILDREN'S AFRICAN DANCE TROUPE

Kúkátónón's mission is to inspire confidence, commitment and vitality among the children in the dance troupe; and to broaden awareness of African and African American cultural traditions throughout Oregon. It has successfully taught African cultural traditions to student performers for more than 30 years. Last season, the troupe was composed of 41 participants ages 7-14 from 15 different schools around the Portland Metro area.

In January 2016, Kúkátónón and The Portland Ballet launched a pilot project to introduce the fundamentals of ballet to troupe members and improve their access to secondary school and higher education dance opportunities. The collaboration continued this season, thanks to support from The Oregon Community Foundation and the Regional Arts & Culture Council. The ballet class, which is being taught by Mari Kai Juras, a professional dancer and teacher, is open to all troupe members at no cost, and is offered once a week at Kúkátónón's program space in North Portland.

PROGRAM NOTES

***Concerto in F (Third Movement, 1970)*, adapted by Nancy Davis after John Clifford, music by George Gershwin** – This fiery crowd-pleaser holds a special place for Davis, who first performed it in 1976 for the Los Angeles Ballet. The dynamic solo part is one of her favorite roles, requiring flashy turns and jumps, which will challenge TPB's young dancers. This piece is also a nice little hat-tip to Clifford, a longtime friend to TPB, a Balanchine protégé, and founder of Los Angeles Ballet, who stages Balanchine ballets and sets his own choreography on companies around the world.

***La Bayadère Shades Trio (1877)* by Marius Petipa, set by Anne Mueller, music by Ludwig Minkus** – This elegant and challenging classical piece will spotlight the three youngest members, ages 12 and 13, to showcase their natural abilities and refine their jumping skills. In ballet terms, the *Shades Trio* is a classic example of a White Act or Ballet Blanc, where the stage customarily and impressively fills with dancers in traditional white tutus. This excerpt is part of a gorgeous dream sequence, where angelic souls file in and poetically dance like wispy vapors.

***Heartaches (2008)* by Anne Mueller, music by Patsy Cline** – *Heartaches* exudes earthy western charm and playfully combines ballet and country. Mueller, co-artistic director of The Portland Ballet, originally created this piece for herself and three other performers for the Sweet Pea Festival in Bozeman, Montana, while she was a principal dancer at Oregon Ballet Theatre. It was also performed in New York City at Ballet Builders, a choreographers showcase, one of only six pieces chosen after a national application process; and at Alabama Ballet, where Mueller danced before joining Oregon Ballet Theatre. Mueller was attracted to the strength and elegance that Patsy Cline brought to changing the perception of country music, and produced this piece as a way to bring ballet to new audiences.

***Rip/Tide* (1998) by BodyVox directors Jamey Hampton and Ashley Roland, set by Zachary Carroll, music by Aphex Twin** – *Rip/Tide* premiered in the first show BodyVox performed in Portland, and Carroll happened to see it. He later joined BodyVox and has danced *Rip/Tide* many times – locally, in New York, and throughout Europe. *Rip* is fast and physical, with almost tribal rhythm, whereas *Tide* is flowing, calm and serene. Carroll considers *Rip/Tide* to be full of beautiful and fulfilling movement, both to watch and to dance. Though it's always been the closing piece of the show, he's never thought of it so much as "goodbye," but rather as "until we meet again." The Portland Ballet is excited to partner with BodyVox to stage *Rip/Tide* and hopes this will lead to more collaborations.

CREATIVE TEAM

Nancy Davis founded The Portland Ballet in 2001 with her husband, Jim Lane. She has served on the faculty at Oregon Ballet Theatre and Northwest Academy, been a frequent guest teacher for Saint Louis Ballet, and done numerous teaching stints in California, Oregon, Hawaii, and the Dominican Republic. She began studying ballet at age six with Natalia Clare of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. She continued her studies at George Balanchine's School of American Ballet in New York City under a Ford Foundation scholarship. At 18, she joined the National Ballet of Washington, DC, touring extensively and dancing solo roles. In 1974, Davis returned to her Los Angeles home to become a founding member and principal dancer with John Clifford's Los Angeles Ballet.

Anne Mueller became co-artistic director of TPB in 2015. She is a former principal dancer, school faculty member, director of artistic operations and interim artistic director at Oregon Ballet Theatre. She was a co-founder of Trey McIntyre Project, serving as managing director (2004-2006) and as a company artist (2005-2007). She danced at Alabama Ballet for three seasons before coming to Portland. She has set works for Ballet West, The Washington Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, Diablo Ballet, and Carolina Ballet. Her choreography has been performed by Oregon Ballet Theatre, Alabama Ballet, Ballet Victoria, BodyVox 2, Polaris Dance Theatre, and The Portland Ballet. Anne received her training from Dame Sonia Arova and Thor Sutowski at the Alabama School of Fine Arts, in addition to The Washington School of Ballet, The Kirov Academy, Houston Ballet Academy, The Joffrey Workshop, and the School of American Ballet.

Zachary Carroll is a founding member of The Portland Ballet faculty and teaches open classes and pas de deux. He received his early training from George Zoritch at the University of Arizona, and attended The National Ballet School in Toronto, Canada, on full scholarship. Zachary has danced both nationally and abroad as a soloist and principal for Oregon Ballet Theatre, Minnesota Dance Theatre, and Ballet West, as well as been a guest performer for numerous companies. He has also been a member of Skinner/Kirk Dance Ensemble, performed and toured for more than a decade with BodyVox, was the director of BodyVox 2 and is a teacher of BodyVox open classes. He also teaches in the curriculum program at Columbia Dance Center, Vancouver, Washington, and frequently guest teaches around the country.

THE PORTLAND BALLET DANCERS

Elliana Kirk, 13, from Rathdrum, Idaho, is an 8th grader at Calvary Online School. She has been studying ballet for five years, and this is her first year at TPB. Before switching to ballet, she competed in gymnastics at the state level in Idaho.

Lauren Kness, 18, from Hillsboro, Oregon, is a senior at Wilson High School, where she is in the National Honor Society. She has been studying ballet for 13 years, and this is her fourth year at TPB. Lauren recently performed as a guest artist for Ballet Concierto Dominicano in the

Dominican Republic. She has participated in summer programs at American Ballet Theatre, Milwaukee Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Houston Ballet, and TPB.

Melanie Labs, 13, from Sherwood, is a freshman at University of Nebraska Online High School. She has participated in summer programs at TPB and at June Taylor's Senior Intensive.

Natalie Reyes, 16, from Salem, is a junior at Oregon Connections Academy. She has been studying ballet for 9 years, and has been at TPB for three years. She has done summer intensives at Master Ballet Academy, Silicon Valley Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, San Francisco Ballet, Suzanne Farrell Ballet, Sultanov Russian Ballet Academy, the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and TPB.

Naomi Rux, 19, is from Oregon City. She has been studying ballet for more than 10 years, and this is her first year at TPB. She has participated in summer programs at Harid Conservatory, Ballet West, Boca Ballet Theatre, and TPB.

Kerridwyn Schanck, 18, from Portland, graduated from Catlin Gabel School last spring and is taking a year deferment from Mount Holyoke College to study in The Portland Ballet's Career Track program. She has been studying ballet for 14 years and this is her 13th year at TPB. She has participated in summer programs at Houston Ballet, Kirov Academy in Washington DC, School of American Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, and TPB.

Delci Syvertson, 17, from Bellingham, Washington, is a high school senior at Whatcom Community College through the state-run Running Start program. She has been studying ballet for seven years and this is her first year at TPB. She has participated in the summer program at Summer Dance Lab.

Henry Winslow, 17, from Bellingham, Washington, is a high school senior at Whatcom Community College through the state-run Running Start program. He has been studying ballet for eight years, and this is his first year at TPB. He recently performed as a guest artist for Ballet Concierto Dominicano in the Dominican Republic. Henry participated in Juilliard's dance program last summer, and other summer intensives include Summer Dance Lab and Bellingham Repertory Dance. He has trained at Britt Burton's The Dance Studio, Western Washington University, and Bellingham Repertory Dance.

Kyra Yannotta, 12, from West Linn, is a 7th grader at Clackamas Web Academy. She has been studying ballet for five years and this is her second year at TPB. Kyra attended the School of American Ballet in NYC last summer on full-tuition scholarship and will attend PNB this summer.

THE PORTLAND BALLET

The Portland Ballet, led by artistic directors Nancy Davis and Anne Mueller, nurtures young dancers from age three to 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. Professionally produced performance experience is at the core of TPB training and TPB is well known for its annual Thanksgiving Weekend production. 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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