

NANCY DAVIS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

THE PORTLAND BALLET

ACADEMY & YOUTH COMPANY

CONTACT: Cynthia Kirk/(syn●tax)
cynkirk@syntaxpdx.com
503-330-1886

JOHN CLIFFORD Artistic Advisor/Choreographer

John Clifford is best known as founder and artistic director of the original Los Angeles Ballet, and principal dancer and choreographer with the New York City Ballet. He is widely considered to be Balanchine's choreographic protégé. Trained in Los Angeles, John Clifford's early work was for the Western Ballet Association where he was a principal dancer and choreographer. After viewing rehearsals of Mr. Clifford's ballets, George Balanchine invited Clifford to move to New York and choreograph for his School of American Ballet.

In 1966, at the age of 19, he joined the New York City Ballet where he quickly became a principal dancer and resident choreographer. During his tenure there he choreographed numerous ballets and danced leading roles in many ballets. Mr. Clifford was the first American male guest artist in history to dance with the Paris Opera Ballet.

Most recently, Mr. Clifford premiered his new ballet, *Casablanca: The Dance*, based on the Warner Bros. movie classic, at The Great Hall of The People in Tiananmen Square. This project is Warner Bros.' first venture into live theater.

- 30 -

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Ken Selden
Music Director and Conductor
Portland State University Orchestra

Ken Selden was appointed conductor and music director of the Symphony Orchestra and New Music Ensemble at Portland State University in fall 2006. Under his direction, the PSU Orchestra has received three awards in Adventurous Programming from ASCAP and the League of American Orchestras.

A strong advocate for new music, Selden has worked with composers Pierre Boulez, John Cage and Tan Dun, and has conducted recent world premieres of music by Peter Lieberston, Michael Nyman and Stephen Paulus. Prior to his appointment at PSU, Selden led a series of performances as assistant conductor of two innovative ensembles – the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the Eos Orchestra. He also worked extensively with the Juilliard Pre-College Orchestras and the New Jersey Youth Symphony, and was music director of orchestras at Brooklyn College and Columbia University.

Since arriving in Portland, Selden has appeared as guest conductor of the Oregon Symphony, Third Angle New Music Ensemble, Portland Youth Philharmonic and the Newport Symphony. Most recently, his recording of Mahler and Debussy arrangements with the newly established Martingale Ensemble was released on MSR Classics.

Recent guest artists with the Portland State University Orchestra include Manuel Barrueco, Orli Shaham, Matt Haimovitz, Anna Polonsky and Awadagin Pratt, as well as PSU faculty members Hamilton Cheifetz, Carol Sindell and Richard Zeller. In addition to its own concert schedule, the PSU Orchestra performs annually with the PSU Opera Theatre and The Portland Ballet.

Selden is a graduate of New England Conservatory, Indiana University and Peabody Conservatory. He studied violin with James Buswell and Yuval Yaron, and conducting with Gustav Meier and Markand Thakar. He also performed in master classes for Neeme Jarvi, Jorma Panula and Yuri Temirkanov, and attended the National Conducting Institute (Kennedy Center), where he worked with Leonard Slatkin and conducted the National Symphony.

Selden made his debut with the National Arts Center Orchestra at the invitation of Pinchas Zuckerman, and subsequently appeared with orchestras of Denver, Baltimore, Minnesota and North Carolina, and at music festivals in the United States, Israel, Japan, Romania and Switzerland. Additionally, he has performed with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra at the David Oistrakh Festival and conducted orchestras in Finland, Italy and Belgium.

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Susan Hess Logeais
Filmmaker

Nerves of Steel: A Year With the Portland Ballet

Susan Hess Logeais approaches filmmaking from the unique perspective of having been a dancer, model and actress. A Seattle native, she traveled to New York at 16 as a Ford Foundation Scholarship student to the School of American Ballet's summer intensive. The following summer, she attended San Francisco Ballet School and spent a year on scholarship, studying and performing with the company under Artistic Director Michael Smuin.

When injuries prevented her from joining the company, Logeais became a successful magazine and international runway model, appearing on covers and in fashion spreads in Italian, English, and German editions of *Vogue*, *Marie Claire* and *Elle*. She appeared as the face of Karl Lagerfeld perfume, and other exclusive brands.

Logeais began acting in 1984 and performed in network television movies, mini-series, "Miami Vice," "Spencer: For Hire," and "Christine Cromwell." Eventually, Logeais decided to step behind the lens. She learned the craft of screenplay writing; formed a production company, Two Chicks with Cameras; and co-directed and produced a series of short films, all of which included some form of dance.

In 2003, she moved to Portland with her husband Olivier and their two children, and resumed her film work. She wrote *Not Dead Yet*, a comedy about three over-40 actresses, who, frustrated with the lack of roles for women their age, decide to make their own movie. Logeais is joined in the cast by many well known national (David Ogden Stiers, Seymour Cassel) and local actors (Allen Nause, Gilberto Del Campo, Michael Mendelson, Michele Mariana, Patricia Ferguson). Completed in 2009 the film has been accepted into six film festivals, winning Best Feature at the Rhode Island International Film Festival and at the Baltimore Women's Film Festival.

Logeais recently completed the short documentary, *Nerves of Steel, A Year with The Portland Ballet*, and is in production on the feature length documentary, *Clay In their Hands*, a personal perspective of how a more sustainable world might function if we understood what was keeping us from realizing it.

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**Kester Cotton, PT, DPT
Master of Ceremonies
The Portland Ballet's October 1, 2011
Documentary-Release Benefit**

Now a Doctor of Physical Therapy, certified strength and conditioning specialist, and director of dance medicine for several Portland-area Therapeutic Associates Physical Therapy clinics, Kester Cotton had a remarkable career as a classical ballet dancer. He performed with the prestigious San Francisco Ballet from 1993-2003 and with Portland's Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT) from 2003-2006. In 2008, he graduated from St. Mary's College of Moraga, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Performing Arts (Dance emphasis). He earned his Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Pacific University of Oregon in 2011.

In the clinic, Kester enjoys his work specializing in sports/dance, general orthopedics, strength and conditioning instruction, and ballet coaching. Outside the clinic, Kester enjoys spending time with his wife Kathi Martuza, (who is also a dancer, a principal ballerina with OBT). Kester and Kathi are expecting their first child in October 2011. Kester also enjoys social dancing, hiking, camping, bicycling, boating, and listening to vinyl records.