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The Portland Ballet's Fall Season Accelerates to Its World Premiere Production of John Clifford's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Comedic Confection Debuts Thanksgiving Weekend

November 25-26-27, world premiere of John Clifford's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
The Portland Ballet (Nancy Davis, artistic director) will perform the world premiere of **John Clifford's *A Midsummer Night's Dream***, from November 25 – 27, 2011 at PSU's Lincoln Hall, 1620 SW Park at Market. The production, with original costumes, set, lighting and Felix Mendelssohn's music performed live by the **PSU Orchestra (Ken Selden, conductor)**, has six performances only, immediately following Thanksgiving Day: Friday, November 25, 2:30 PM and 7:30 PM; Saturday and Sunday, November 26 and 27, 1 PM and 4 PM. Tickets for the one-hour ballet, range from \$15 - \$35, with family discount available, and can be purchased at www.theportlandballet.org, the PSU box office or TPB studio. Information: 503-452-8448.

The Portland Ballet has, for the past several years presented a holiday production with a twist: it wasn't *The Nutcracker* and it wasn't in December.

Yet, the charming ballet *La Boutique Fantasque*, which enjoyed box office and critical success from 2003 – 2010, fit a winter holiday theme since it's all about wonderful toys that come to life in a magic toystore.

This year, the company has added even more imaginative zest to its holiday production. Its Thanksgiving weekend performances will evoke the anything goes atmosphere of the leafy, mysterious, romantic and silly! cool of an August night when The Portland Ballet presents the world premiere of John Clifford's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Based on Shakespeare's play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is a timelessly popular tale of foolish fairies, mixed up humans, mischievous sprites and love-sick donkeys. It's a comedic confection to delight the entire family.

The story, with its varieties of romance, fantasy and foolery, diaphanous gowns and shimmering fairy wings, is extremely well-suited to ballet. The irresistible scamp Robin Goodfellow, better known as Puck, was made to cavort across a dance stage.

September 11, excerpts from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Fall.Art.Live

TPB will present excerpts from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Fall.Art.Live, a **free** arts showcase generously produced by **Oregon Ballet Theatre**, at Director Park (SW Park + Yamhill), from 2:30-3:00 PM on Sunday, September 11.

October 1, Film-release benefit to support live music at every November performance

On Saturday, October 1, TPB holds a benefit to complete the funding needed for the artistic collaboration with the PSU Orchestra for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The centerpiece of the 90-minute program, which begins at 7:30 at PSU's Lincoln Hall, 1620 SW Park at Market, is the world premiere screening of **Susan Hess Logeais'** documentary, *Nerves of Steel: A Year with*

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the Portland Ballet. The 30-minute film will be flanked by danced excerpts from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and performances by PSU Orchestra musicians. **Kester Cotton**, former dancer, Oregon Ballet Theatre and San Francisco Ballet, is the MC. Tickets for the program-only are \$35, adults/\$20, youth; for the program and dessert-and-wine reception with artists filmmaker Susan Hess Logeais; choreographer John Clifford, PSU Orchestra Conductor Ken Selden, lighting designer **Michael Mazzola**, costume designer **Mary Muhlbach**, set designer **Liliya Drubetskaya**, Kester Cotton, TPB Artistic Director Nancy Davis, TPB Managing Director **Jim Lane**, and others, \$75, adults/\$35, youth. Tickets: www.portlandballet.org. Information: 503-452-8448.

October 8, 22, November 5, 19, free, open rehearsals of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

A series of **free open rehearsals** to observe the evolution of the premiere, takes place at the TPB studio, 6250 SW Capitol Highway, from 2 to 4 PM on Saturdays, October 8, 22, November 5, 19. TPB Artistic Director Nancy Davis will lead each rehearsal and discuss the work, briefly, at the beginning and end of each session. Information: 503-452-8448

The October 1 benefit and October 8 open rehearsal are part of **Oregon Days of Culture**, produced by the **Oregon Cultural Trust**.

October 14, “Shine a Light” at Portland Art Museum

On Friday, October 14, TPB will be part of the **Portland Art Museum’s 3rd annual “Shine a Light,”** a multi-disciplinary, interactive and innovative way to open the museum to new ideas and new audiences. At times yet to be determined, TPB dancers will casually dance/rehearse through the galleries, gracefully interacting with art and art-lovers.

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The Portland Ballet (TPB) nurtures young dancers from age three to 22. TPB students are trained with professional intent, and the enrichment and expectation that brings. TPB dancers leave the school with the life skills – commitment, discipline, teamwork, curiosity, accomplishment -- that bring success in any endeavor.

The pinnacle of TPB’s curriculum is its annual, fully-professional produced holiday production. The production has original staging, costumes, set and live music – a standard of excellence for its dancers and audience that is at play every day in the studio of TPB.

TPB was established in 2001 by Nancy Davis (artistic director) and Jim Lane (managing director), former principal dancers with the original Los Angeles Ballet. There, they worked closely with Los Angeles Ballet founder John Clifford, one-time New York City Ballet principal dancer and choreographer, who is now TPB’s frequent guest choreographer. Ms. Davis began studying with Balanchine and other world renowned teachers and choreographers at age 14 when she was accepted into NYCB’s School of American Ballet. At 18, she joined Ben Stevenson and Fredric Franklin’s National Ballet of Washington D.C.

TPB’s faculty have long and deep experience at San Francisco Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Royal Danish Ballet, Smuin Ballet/SF, Le Grand Ballet de Genève, Bouand Dance Company, BodyVox, Ballet West, and many others. TPB graduates from have gone on to professional careers in ballet with companies such as Houston Ballet, St. Louis Ballet, Ballet Memphis and Ballet Idaho. Others have been accepted in the professional divisions of companies like The School of American Ballet, Miami City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet and Boston Ballet. They have also earned dance scholarships at universities such as Tisch School of the Arts at NYU, University of Arizona, University of Indiana, and The University of Utah.

The Portland Ballet is generously supported by **Regional Arts and Culture Council, Work for Art, The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, The Herbert B. Jones Foundation and Juan Young Trust; The Oregonian and All Classical;** its board and individuals donors. It participates in the “Arts for All” initiative.