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THE PORTLAND
BALLET
NANCY DAVIS & ANNE MUELLER
ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

**The Magic Begins at Thanksgiving! As
The Portland Ballet and PSU Orchestra Perform the
World Premiere of Anne Mueller's *Day by Day*
With John Clifford's *Firebird***

A \$5 First Performance and Family Pricing Make TPB's Holiday Joy Affordable to All

Tickets On Sale Monday, October 19

THE PORTLAND BALLET Presents
the World Premiere of
Anne Mueller's *Day by Day* (2015) with
John Clifford's *Firebird* (2005)
in partnership with
Portland State University Orchestra
Ken Selden, music director

Performances

F/Sa/Su, Nov 27/28/29, 1 & 4 PM
Lincoln Hall, 1620 SW Park at Market
Runtime: 80 minutes w/intermission

Tickets: **F/Nov 27, 1 PM, \$5**

cash/check/day of only

All other performances:

Tickets: \$15, youth; \$35, adults
\$90, family pack (2 youth, 2
adults); additional youth, \$10

theportlandballet.org or 503.452.8448

Limited Arts Card and Arts for All tickets

Free Open Rehearsals

Led by Co-Artistic Directors Nancy Davis
& Anne Mueller

THE PORTLAND BALLET Studio

6250 SW Capitol Highway

Sa, Nov 7, 2-3 PM (*Firebird*)

Sa, Nov 14, 2-3 PM (*Day by Day*)

Free: Reservation/Ticket not needed

Information: theportlandballet.org

503.452.8448

THE PORTLAND BALLET's annual Thanksgiving Weekend production opens the season with joyful exuberance. Affordable pricing allows families to extend the warm feeling of the autumn gathering with an exciting afternoon at the theater. THE PORTLAND BALLET's superbly trained young dancers connect immediately to a family audience, while the high artistry of the production -- including live music at every performance -- attracts discerning dance-lovers.

The 2015 production has an extra edge of excitement as TPB continues to welcome its newly named co-artistic director, **Anne Mueller**, with the world premiere of her witty and charming *Day by Day*, set to Mozart. *Day by Day's* playful humor is offset by the thrill and sophistication of Artistic Advisor **John Clifford's** *Firebird*, based on the Russian fairy tale and animated by Stravinsky's enthralling music.

The full cast features 98 young dancers, including -- new this year -- 10 pre-professional dancers from TPB's just-launched Career Track curriculum as well as the advanced Academy dancers of the Youth Company.

Choreography has long been part of Anne Mueller’s artistic portfolio. When she left Oregon Ballet Theatre in 2013, after being principal dancer for many years then interim artistic director, she began teaching and choreographing for TPB. Co-Artistic Director **Nancy Davis** and Executive Director **Jim Lane** commissioned her to create a piece for this year’s Thanksgiving Weekend production more than a year ago, before she joined TPB as co-artistic director in August.

Mueller drew on childhood-favorite books by Roger Hargreaves, Russell Hoban and Shel Silverstein for her visual inspiration. She chose Mozart’s String Quartet in B-flat Major (1784) for her piece about one day of everyday comedy and drama in the life of one family. The jaunty, highly danceable music perfectly underscores Mueller’s delightful scenes from tiny dancer-cars directed by a gruff traffic officer to the stress of a magazine newsroom, from a tender scene between a Type-A magazine editor and a shy music teacher to an irresistible ensemble of pajama-clad sleepy heads. Her creative team includes artist **Morgan Walker** (Augen Gallery) who created the charming projected backdrops and imaginative costume designer **Melissa Heller** (Bag and Baggage Productions).

John Clifford re-staged his 1975 Los Angeles Ballet *Firebird* for TPB in 2005. Originally choreographed by Michel Fokine in 1910 for the Ballet Russe, *Firebird* is among the most thrilling of ballets and poses intense technical and artistic challenges for any dancer. Based on a Russian fairy-tale, it includes highly dramatic elements of danger (evil sorcerer Kaschei), beauty (the bewitching Firebird), tragedy (Princesses held captive by Kaschei) and romance (valiant Prince Ivan). And then there’s the splendor of the sets and costumes. When Nancy Davis and Jim Lane were principal dancers with the Los Angeles Ballet, they danced the lead roles approximately 75 times, nationwide.

Among the many aspects that make TPB’s Thanksgiving weekend production an enduring favorite are the uncompromising production values. This begins first and foremost with high-level choreography danced, in partnership with the **Portland State University Orchestra (Ken Selden, music director)**, to **live** music at *every* performance. Additionally, professionally designed costumes are clever and colorful; backdrops, evocative and charming; and lighting, brilliantly atmospheric. THE PORTLAND BALLET prides itself on offering students professional performance opportunities. With its high artistic standards and superb production values, this is one of the finest.

Creative Credits

Day by Day

Choreography, Anne Mueller
Music, Wolfgang A. Mozart
Music Director, Ken Selden
Projections, Morgan Walker
Costumes, Melissa Heller
Lighting, Michael Mazzola

Firebird

Choreography, John Clifford
Music, Igor Stravinsky
Music Director, Ken Selden
Projections, Helina Clayton
Costumes, Mary Muhlbach
Masks, Heather Jackson
Lighting, Michael Mazzola

THE PORTLAND BALLET 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.