

THE PORTLAND BALLET

NANCY DAVIS & ANNE MUELLER ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

CONTACT: Cynthia Kirk
cynkirk@syntaxpdx.com
503.330.1886

The Portland Ballets Marks 15th Anniversary with Career Track Dancers and Homecoming, Noted Alumni

June 10-11 Program Focus on Dancers with new Work & Solos

Ticket Sales Benefit TPB's Scholarship Program

THE PORTLAND BALLET Celebrates its 15th Anniversary

With New Works and Solos, in performance order:

Anne Mueller, *Everything Slightly Rosy*, Penguin Café Orchestra (2016)

Career Track ensemble

Marius Petipa, *La Bayadère* Act II Gamzatti Variation, Minkus (1877)

Victoria Harvey

Kenneth Macmillan, *Romeo & Juliet* Act I Balcony Scene, Prokofiev (1965)

Lauren Lane, Michael McGonegal

Josie Moseley, *Quiet Stories* Excerpt, Harrison (1995)

Caroline Yamada

Caroline MacDonald, *Twisted*, Mitchell (2016)

Caroline MacDonald

Éowyn Emerald, *With You*, Arnalds, Ott (2016)

Career Track ensemble

John Clifford, *Blue Rondo*, Brubeck (2016)

Christine Mathews, Charlotte Logeais, Lane, McGonegal, Michael Jurica, Nick Jurica, Devin Packard

F/Sa, June 10-11, 7:30 PM • Sa/June 11, 2 PM

TPB Studio Theater, 6250 SW Capitol Highway

Runtime: 70 minutes w/intermission

General Admission seats: \$10, under 18/\$25, adults

theportlandballet.org or 503.452.8448

Limited Arts Card and Arts for All tickets

THE PORTLAND BALLET celebrates its 15th Anniversary by showcasing its inaugural cohort of Career Track pre-professional dancers joined by alumni now dancing professionally or training at leading conservatories. Ticket proceeds benefit TPB's scholarship program.

Founded in 2001 by **Nancy Davis** and **Jim Lane**, former Los Angeles Ballet dancers, and joined in 2015 by **Anne Mueller**, former Oregon Ballet Theatre principal, TPB has grown to 185 students with a reputation as the finest ballet academy in the region. TPB is well known for the professional intent and nurturing support of its training, and its professionally produced performances, especially its annual Thanksgiving Weekend production. Dancers trained at TPB have joined companies ranging from Grand Rapids Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Nevada Ballet Theatre and St. Louis Ballet. Led by Co-Artistic Director Anne Mueller, the Career Track pre-professional program launched in August 2015.

The June 10-11 bill is dancer-driven with work created on them in the scant weeks since last month's performances at Lincoln Hall. Choreographers include Artistic Advisor **John Clifford**, Co-Artistic Director Anne Mueller, faculty **Josie Moseley** and **Éowyn Emerald**, and alumna **Caroline MacDonald**.

The program includes *Blue Rondo* by John Clifford, set to Dave Brubeck. Clifford, who arrives in Portland June 2 to begin the choreography, cites Bob Fosse and Matt Mattox as his choreographic inspirations for the piece. Anne Mueller's *Everything Slightly Rosy* grew out of her attraction to the mid-90s ambient sound of Penguin Café Orchestra. Like the music, her ballet has classical elements interpreted through a contemporary lens. Its ensemble of nine young women, who comprise TPB's inaugural Career Track cohort, captures the joy of artistic camaraderie. Éowyn Emerald's piece, which also features the Career Track dancers, challenges them with distinctly contemporary-dance choreography and a reflective, adagio mood.

The program rounds out with dancer-staged excerpts from masterworks from the ballet repertoire, *La Bayadère* and *Romeo and Juliet*, solos by Josie Moseley for Caroline Yamada and Caroline MacDonald dancing her own *Twisted*, set to Joni Mitchell song.

Career Track Dancers

Medea Cullumbine-Robertson, 17
Annie Garcia, 19
Lauren Kness, 17
Bernadette LaMarsh, 21
Ophélie Martin-Weber, 17
Elizabeth Pfister, 17
Dori Pollard, 20
Emily Rapp, 16
Natalie Reyes, 15

Alumni

Victoria Harvey, Eugene Ballet Company
Michael Jurica, North Carolina School of the Arts
Nicholas Jurica, Juilliard School
Lauren Lane, St. Louis Ballet
Charlotte Logeais, Grand Rapids Ballet
Christine Mathews, Ballet Tucson
Caroline MacDonald, Nevada Ballet
Michael McGonegal, St. Louis Ballet
Devin Packard, Ailey School
Caroline Yamada, Ailey School graduate and choreographer

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.