

THE PORTLAND BALLET

NANCY DAVIS & ANNE MUELLER ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

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The Portland Ballet presents

John Clifford's wildly popular *The Enchanted Toyshop*

and a world premiere of Anne Mueller's *Gift Box*

with Portland State University Orchestra, Ken Selden, music director

PROGRAM DETAILS

John Clifford's *The Enchanted Toyshop* (2003)

Anne Mueller's *Gift Box* (2016), a world premiere

Dates: November 25-27, 2016

Times: 2:30 & 7:30 pm Friday-Saturday, November 25-26;
1 & 5 pm Sunday, November 27

Where: Lincoln Hall, 1620 SW Park at Market, Portland, OR

Tickets: \$5-\$10-\$15, under 18; \$10-\$25-\$35, adults

Discounts:

–First-Show Friday! A special gift: Tickets for the 2:30 pm show on Friday, November 25, will be only \$5 youth/student, \$10 adult

–Family Package: For TIER 1 pricing, when purchasing two adult and two or more youth tickets, all youth tickets will be \$5 off

–Group Discount: 10 or more tickets will receive 10% off

–Limited Arts Card and Arts for All tickets

Runtime: 90 minutes (including one 20-minute intermission)

Information: theportlandballet.org or 503.750.3157

PORTLAND, OR – The Portland Ballet's annual Thanksgiving Weekend show kicks off the holiday season with productions that appeal to families and discerning dance-lovers. TPB's superbly trained dancers, high artistry, and excellent production quality add up to first-class entertainment, yet tickets are available at affordable prices.

THE ENCHANTED TOYSHOP

The Enchanted Toyshop (formerly known by its French title *La Boutique Fantasque*) is TPB's signature showpiece, an enduring favorite for both family audiences and Academy dancers.

John Clifford designed the ballet specifically for TPB, charmingly showcasing various skill levels and international dance styles (including Tarantella, Can-Can, and Cossack).

The full cast features more than 90 dancers.

The magic begins when two children are accidentally locked all night in a toyshop, and Pinocchio reigns over a parade of playful toys that come to life to entertain the guests. Playing cards, poodles, Pierrots, and Russian nesting dolls are all part of the fast-paced fun.

Clifford reorganized and added characters to the 1919 ballet that was originally choreographed by Léonide Massine and premiered by Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes. A Balanchine protégé and founder of Los Angeles Ballet, Clifford stages Balanchine ballets and sets his own choreography on companies around the world.

GIFT BOX

Anne Mueller's celebratory new ***Gift Box*** embraces stately sweeping gestures and poignant, touching details, like a highly anticipated present that is slowly and sweetly unwrapped.

Mueller, co-artistic director of TPB, explains how she was inspired: "I had a specific vision of colors, red and gold, with big beautiful bows and ribbons on the costumes."

Warm and gracious, the piece combines classical and romantic styles, with respectful nods to historic choreography. "I tell the dancers to imagine that they are writing on the Declaration of Independence with a quill pen," said Mueller.

Elegant movements beautifully fill out selections of Bizet's stirring L'Arlésienne Suites No. 1 and No. 2, performed by the **Portland State University Orchestra**, under the direction of **Ken Selden**.

Gift Box will be performed by 20 dancers, featuring pre-professionals from TPB's year-old Career Track program as well as advanced students in the Academy's Youth Company.

ABOUT ANNE MUELLER

Mueller became co-artistic director of TPB in 2015. She is a former principal dancer, director of artistic operations and interim artistic director at Oregon Ballet Theatre, and was co-founder of Trey McIntyre Project.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Meet the cast! Audience members are invited to stay after every performance to meet the cast, take photos with them, and have their programs autographed. Young people will receive special gift bags.

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CREATIVE CREDITS

The Enchanted Toyshop (2003)

Choreography: John Clifford

Composer: Gioachino Rossini piano pieces orchestrated by Ottorini Respighi

Rehearsal Assistant: Jason Davis

Costumes: Mary Muhlbach and Jane Staugus Bray

Stage Manager: Kayla Scrivner

Set: Jessica Kody Harris

Lighting: Original Design by Michael Mazzola, recreated by James Mapes

Gift Box (2016)

Choreography: Anne Mueller

Composer: Georges Bizet

Music Director: Ken Selden

Costumes: Amy Karol

Stage Manager: Kayla Scrivner

Lighting: James Mapes

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.