

THE PORTLAND

NANCY DAVIS & ANNE MUELLER ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

BALLET

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Portland Ballet presents
'The Enchanted Toyshop'
and 'Tourbillon,' a new work by Anne Mueller
with Portland State University Orchestra, Ken Selden, music director

PROGRAM DETAILS

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

Anne Mueller's *Tourbillon* (2017), a world premiere

Both performed with the PSU Orchestra, under the direction of Ken Selden

Dates: Nov. 24-26, 2017

Times: 2:30 & 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 24-25; 1 & 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26

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

Tickets: \$5-\$35, on sale beginning Oct. 20

Runtime: One hour 45 minutes (including one 20-minute intermission)

Information: theportlandballet.org or 503-750-3157

Discounts:

- **First-Show Friday:** Tickets for the 2:30 p.m. show on Friday, Nov. 24, 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
- **Good deals:** Limited Arts Card and Arts for All tickets

Special Opportunities:

- **Swag bags:** Young people will receive special gift bags.
- **Activities:** The fun starts in the lobby with photo opportunities and activities for kids.
- **Meet the cast:** Audience members are invited to stay after every performance to meet the cast, take photos with them, and have their programs signed.

PORTLAND, Ore. – After last year's sold-out shows, [The Portland Ballet](http://ThePortlandBallet) is reviving its holiday hit, *The Enchanted Toyshop*, Thanksgiving weekend in a double bill that will also feature a new ballet, *Tourbillon*, by co-artistic director **Anne Mueller**. **The Portland State University Orchestra**, under the direction of **Ken Selden**, will provide live music for both works.

THE ENCHANTED TOYSHOP

The magic begins when two children are accidentally locked in a toyshop, and Pinocchio reigns over a parade of 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.

Choreographed specifically for TPB by **John Clifford**, *Toyshop* (formerly known by its French title *La Boutique Fantasque*) charmingly showcases various skill levels and international dance

styles. Since its premiere in 2003, *Toyshop* has become TPB's signature showpiece, an enduring favorite for both family audiences and academy dancers.

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.

The full cast features 75 dancers and 38 musicians from all over the Portland and Vancouver areas.

[In a review for Oregon ArtsWatch last year](#), dance critic **Martha Ullman West** said the show "offers comedy and pathos, fantasy and romance, a thoroughly satisfactory happily-ever-after-ending, and a lot of dancing."

[In a preview for The Oregonian/Oregonlive last year](#), **Heather Wisner** wrote: "As Clifford worked, he kept both children and adults in mind. 'I have a lot of humor in it,' he says. There is pathos, too: A love story between the shopkeeper and the wife he neglects is meant to tug at grownup heartstrings. And, he says, 'the dancing is very sophisticated; there are about five or six roles that are high level.' "

TOURBILLON

Mueller's celebratory new *Tourbillon* will showcase 27 advanced dancers in four pieces set to rarely heard music by Joseph Lanner, an Austrian dance composer from the early 1800s who helped spark the popularity of the waltz. He was a contemporary of Johann Strauss I and a predecessor of "The Waltz King," Johann Strauss II.

Die Romantiker-Walzer and *Hoffballtänze*, which make up the opening and closing segments of the ballet, evoke the swirling grace of a Viennese ballroom. The ballet will feature two waltz sections, a galop, and a polka.

As Lanner's music isn't widely performed, PSU Orchestra conductor Ken Selden created orchestrations of the four selections, working from piano or string quartet scores.

For choreography, Mueller pays homage to a number of the great ballets that honor and celebrate social dance, such as *Graduation Ball* and *The Merry Widow*. She drew inspiration from the look of a 1950s cotillion, costuming the ladies in the cast in colorful ball gowns, with white evening gloves and elegant, petite, jeweled crowns.

"I'm challenging myself to use the costuming of the ballet to help give the choreography its structure," Mueller said. "We'll be using lovely gowns for the advanced ladies in the piece, built in sets of two or three of each color (light blue, dark blue, purple, pink, gold, and green). Rather than keeping each grouping together throughout, I'm experimenting with intermittently mixing and restoring the color groups. My hope is that this will add another layer of choreographic interest to the piece."

ANNE MUELLER

Anne Mueller became co-artistic director of TPB in 2015. She enjoyed an 18-year career as a nationally recognized ballet dancer. She was a principal dancer with Oregon Ballet Theatre, where she performed leading roles in works by Balanchine, Robbins, Kudelka, McIntyre, Fonte, Tharp, and Wheeldon, among many others. She experienced a rich choreographic synergy with OBT's former artistic director Christopher Stowell, which resulted in numerous created roles,

most notably Rite of Spring. Anne served on the artistic staff of OBT from 2008 to 2013, culminating with a term as interim artistic director. She was a co-founder, company artist, and managing director of Trey McIntyre Project. She toured with TMP to Wolf Trap, Jacob's Pillow, and Vail International Dance Festival, receiving critical mention in The New York Times. Her choreography has been performed by TPB, OBT, the School of OBT, Alabama Ballet, BodyVox, and others. Anne has staged works for Christopher Stowell, Trey McIntyre, and Nicolo Fonte for companies such as The Washington Ballet, Diablo Ballet, Ballet West, Tulsa Ballet, Perm Opera and Ballet Theatre (Russia).

PERFORMANCES

Providing professionally produced performance experience has been at the core of TPB training since the company was founded in 2001. TPB continues to nurture stand-out dance talent for students ages 3-22, and many go on to professional companies and conservatory programs around the world. These performances are rare opportunities to see the next generation of dance stars.

Six concerts will be performed Nov. 24-26 at Lincoln Performance Hall at PSU, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 24-25; 1 & 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26. Tickets start at only \$5 and go on sale Oct. 20. More information at theportlandballet.org or 503-750-3157.

CREDITS

Live music is made possible by the generous support of Gregg Norvell.

Music Director: Ken Selden

Stage Manager: Kayla Scrivner

The Enchanted Toyshop (2003)

Music by Ottorino Respighi after Gioachino Rossini

Created and Choreographed by John Clifford

Staged by Nancy Davis

Rehearsal Assistant: Jason Davis

Costume Design: Mary Muhlbach and Jane Staugus Bray

Lighting Design: Michael Mazzola, recreated by James Mapes

Set Design: Jessica Kody Harris

Tourbillon (2017)

Music by Joseph Lanner

Created and Choreographed by Anne Mueller

Costume Design: Michelle Shipton-Cook and Amy Karol

Lighting Design: James Mapes

THE PORTLAND BALLET

Founded in 2001, The Portland Ballet is shaped by the vision, artistic experience, and family-centered sensibility of the founding directors. Artistic Director Nancy Davis and Executive Director Jim Lane trained at the School of American Ballet and enjoyed distinguished professional careers in companies throughout the U.S. After retiring as principal dancers of the Los Angeles Ballet – where their partnership onstage led to a marriage and family off the stage – they moved to Portland, Oregon, and founded The Portland Ballet.

Artistic Director Anne Mueller joined the company in 2015 to lead TPB's Career Track program. Anne trained with Dame Sonia Arova and Thor Sutowski and came to TPB after fifteen years with Oregon Ballet Theatre, where she was a principal dancer. A co-founder of Trey McIntyre

Project, Anne has extensive experience in choreographing and staging works across the United States.

TPB's Artistic Advisor John Clifford, a favored protégé of George Balanchine, works regularly with the students. Teaching approved dances from The George Balanchine Trust, Clifford provides a living connection to the most influential choreographer of modern times.

Graduates have carried TPB's reputation for excellence into advanced dance programs and professional companies throughout the U.S. and abroad. TPB alumni have gone on to dance with Pacific Northwest Ballet, Houston Ballet, Saint Louis Ballet, Sacramento Ballet, Ballet West, Nevada Ballet Theatre, Royal Swedish Ballet, Eugene Ballet, Batsheva Dance Company, Maryinsky Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, and other professional companies.

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