

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**CONTACT:** Laura Grimes, laura@theportlandballet.org, 971.322.9452

**The Portland Ballet presents
John Clifford's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
on Thanksgiving weekend**

The PSU Orchestra, under the direction of Ken Selden,
and PSU opera singers perform
Mendelssohn's gorgeous music live at every concert

Guest dancers join the cast of more than 80,
which includes three sets of identical twins

DETAILS**John Clifford's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*****Performed with the PSU Orchestra, under the direction of Ken Selden, and PSU opera singers****Dates:** Nov. 23-25, 2018**Time:** 2 and 5 p.m. each day (6 performances)**Where:** Lincoln Performance Hall at PSU, 1620 SW Park at Market, Portland, OR**Tickets:** Start at \$10**Runtime:** 1 hour 15 minutes, including one intermission**Information:** theportlandballet.org or 503-750-3157**Discounts:**

- **First-Show Friday:** All tickets for the 2 p.m. show on Friday, Nov. 23, will be only \$10.
- **Family Package:** For TIER 1 pricing, when purchasing two adult and two or more youth tickets, all youth tickets will be \$6 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:** Our signature gift bags will be handed out to young people.
- **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.

Fast-paced choreography, clearly and musically executed ... a pleasure to watch.

– Martha Ullman West, *The Oregonian*

PORTLAND, Ore. – **The Portland Ballet** presents **John Clifford's *A Midsummer Night's Dream***, a witty confection of a ballet, on Thanksgiving weekend. Produced in collaboration with the **PSU orchestra**, under the direction of **Ken Selden**, *Midsummer* is danced to Felix Mendelssohn's gorgeous music, which is performed live at all

concerts. More than 80 TPB dancers, including three sets of identical twins, will be joined by guest artists **Josh Murry-Hawkins**, who will reprise his role as the charming ruffian Bottom, and **Seth Parker**, who will return to the TPB stage as the noble Theseus. Two soloists from PSU's acclaimed opera program will also join the cast.

Created especially on TPB and premiered in 2011, this amusing and elegant adaptation of Shakespeare's comedy showcases a variety of challenging choreography: the fleet-footedness of fairies, the antics of rustics, and the style and grace of nobility. The magic begins with excited buzzing in the enchanted forest and ends with a *grand pas de deux* to celebrate a royal wedding. Along the way, fairies feud and stir up mischief, a merry buffoon turns into a donkey, and the queen of the fairies falls in love with him.

TPB's Thanksgiving production is an annual tradition with original choreography, staging, sets, costumes, and live music. The whole show at PSU's Lincoln Hall moves along quickly in only one hour and 15 minutes. Tickets start at just \$10 for all six performances, which are 2 and 5 p.m. Nov. 23-25. Purchase tickets at theportlandballet.org or 503-750-3157.

John Clifford, TPB artistic advisor and renowned choreographer of *Midsummer* observes, "Full of sub-plots and twists, at its heart *Midsummer* is all about love...." Clifford has performed in an opera version of *Midsummer* for Los Angeles Opera and in George Balanchine's ballet version for New York City Ballet. A favored protégé of Balanchine, Clifford works regularly with TPB students and teaches approved dances from The George Balanchine Trust, providing a living connection to the most influential choreographer of modern times.

CREDITS

Choreography: John Clifford

Music Director: Ken Selden

Music: Felix Mendelssohn

Staging: Nancy Davis

Rehearsal Assistants: Jason Davis, Annie Garcia, and Elizabeth Guerin

Stage Manager: Kayla Scrivner

Costume Design: Mary Muhlbach

Lighting Design: Michael Mazzola, recreated by James Mapes

Set Design: Liliya Drubetskaya

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.

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, Boston Ballet, Miami City 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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