

# THE PORTLAND BALLET

NANCY DAVIS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Laura Grimes, [laura@theportlandballet.org](mailto:laura@theportlandballet.org), 971.322.9452

## The Portland Ballet presents 'Current/Classic'

### DETAILS

#### **Current/Classic**

**Dates:** May 10-11, 2019

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

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

**Tickets:** Start at \$10

**Runtime:** 112 minutes, including 2 intermissions

**Information:** [theportlandballet.org](http://theportlandballet.org) or 503-750-3157

#### **Discounts:**

- **Presale:** 10% off all tickets April 1-7
- **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

PORTLAND, Ore. – [The Portland Ballet](http://ThePortlandBallet) presents **Current/Classic** May 10-11 in a mixed-repertoire program of contemporary and classical pieces that showcase the academy's advanced company dancers. The bill includes Balanchine's iconic **Serenade**, the elegant and beautiful **Swan Lake Act II**, Tom Gold's energetic **Festival Russe**, the visually stunning **Rip/Tide** by the founders of BodyVox, and **Quinary**, a brand new work by Ballet Master Jason Davis.

### PROGRAM

#### ***Serenade (1<sup>st</sup> movement)***

##### **Tchaikovsky/George Balanchine**

*Serenade* is gorgeous and romantic, from Tchaikovsky's first recognizable notes and the visual thrill when the curtain rises. First performed in 1934, it was the first ballet **George Balanchine** created after immigrating to the United States, using the dancers that were available and incorporating unexpected events that happened during rehearsals – a dancer falling and another one arriving late. **John Clifford**, TPB's artistic advisor and a favored protégé of Balanchine, says the choreographer considered ballet very spiritual. "This is not about the real world. He was trying to express in movement what you can't say in words. It's hard on the dancers because they have to let go of themselves and humble themselves to the art, but ultimately giving over to it becomes freeing and powerful."

#### ***Rip/Tide***

##### **Aphex Twin/Ashley Roland and Jamey Hampton, staged by Zachary Carroll**

*Rip/Tide*, by the directors of BodyVox, echoes the pulse and ever-changing motion of the ocean. The first segment, *Rip*, is fast and physical, with almost tribal rhythm, whereas *Tide* is flowing, calm, and serene. **Zachary Carroll**, a founding member of the TPB faculty who set the dance, happened to see *Rip/Tide* when it premiered in the first show BodyVox performed in Portland in 1998. He later joined BodyVox and has danced *Rip/Tide* many times – locally, in New York, and throughout

Europe. The work is usually performed as the closing piece of a show, and Carroll says he's never thought of it so much as "goodbye," but rather as "until we meet again."

### ***Swan Lake Act II***

#### **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky/Staged by Elizabeth Guerin and Jason Davis**

A transcendent, mesmerizing beauty marks this quintessential classical ballet. Full of magic, tragedy, and romance, the enchanting tale of a beautiful princess who suffers an evil curse and a rebellious prince who falls in love with her has endured since Tchaikovsky wrote his glorious, timeless score in the 1870s. Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov reworked the choreography in the popular version, which debuted in 1895 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

### ***Quinary***

#### **Philip Glass/Jason Davis**

Ballet Master **Jason Davis** worked with 10 dancers to choreograph this brand new edgy, contemporary ballet that combines a classical look with a modern sensibility. Dark costumes and stark lighting contrast with circular shapes and intricate movements.

### ***Festival Russe***

#### **Aram Khachaturian, Dmitri Shostakovich, Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov/Tom Gold**

*Festival Russe*, which TPB first featured in 2017, celebrates the tradition of the Ballets Russes by incorporating elements of lively folk dances and using music from several early 20th century Russian composers. **Tom Gold**, founder of Tom Gold Dance and formerly a soloist with New York City Ballet, originally choreographed it on Ballet Academy East, a prominent school in New York City.

## **PERFORMANCES**

Two concerts will take place May 10-11, at 7:30 p.m., at Lincoln Performance Hall at Portland State University. Tickets start at only \$10. Information: [theportlandballet.org](http://theportlandballet.org) or 503-750-3157.

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

## **THE PORTLAND BALLET**

The Portland Ballet, a dance academy in Portland, Oregon, is committed to fostering the future of ballet by building the next generation of dancers and audiences. Founded in 2001, TPB 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 professional companies and conservatory programs 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.

###