

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

**The Portland Ballet presents DANSEUR,
a documentary that explores the struggles and determination of male ballet dancers
ONE SHOWING ONLY!**

DETAILS***DANSEUR*, a documentary that explores the struggles and determination of male ballet dancers****Directed and produced by Scott Gormley**

Discussion with the director and three of Portland's finest male dancers and teachers will follow the screening

When: Sunday, September 29, 2019**Time:** 3:30 p.m.**Running time:** 1 hour 10 minutes, followed by a 30-minute panel discussion**Where:** Cinema 21, 616 N.W. 21st Ave., Portland, OR 97209**Tickets:** \$15 adults, \$10 youth/students**Discount:** Arts for All tickets available**Information and advance sales:** theportlandballet.org or 503-452-8448[View the official trailer](#)[View the official DANSEUR website](#)

PORTLAND, Ore. – [The Portland Ballet](#) presents ***DANSEUR*** for one showing only at [Cinema 21](#) on Sept. 29. The documentary, which won Grand Prize for Best Documentary at the Socially Relevant Film Festival 2019, explores the struggles and determination of young men who pursue ballet. It addresses the difficult subjects of bullying and homophobia while it also illustrates the vitality of dance.

"I've interviewed more than two dozen dancers," director and producer Scott Gormley said, "and their stories are heartbreakingly similar. Verbal abuse. Physical abuse. Assault. Researcher Doug Risner of Wayne State University found that nearly 96 percent of all boys who dance have faced verbal and/or physical assaults from their peers, ultimately driving many young danseurs from the studio."

The film features stories from James Whiteside (American Ballet Theatre), John Lam (Boston Ballet), Harper Watters (The Houston Ballet), Derek Dunn (Boston Ballet), among others.

From [the official film site](#): "Enter any dance studio in the United States and the classes will be brimming with little bunheads dreaming of crossing the stage at Lincoln Center. But you will be hard pressed to find a single boy among them. ***DANSEUR*** explores why, in a country that strives for gender equality, where young women are encouraged to cross the gender barrier and participate in male-dominated fields, especially by their parents,

does this disparity exist? Why is it more socially acceptable for parents (fathers in particular) to encourage their sons to participate in all other physical pursuits (ie: sports, fitness) but not the ballet?”

After the screening, director Scott Gormley will lead a 30-minute panel discussion with three of Portland’s finest male ballet dancers and teachers, including Zachary Carroll, Peter Franc, and Theodore Skye Stouber.

One showing will take place Sunday, Sept. 29, 3:30 p.m., at Cinema 21, 616 N.W. 21st Ave., Portland, OR 97209. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 youth/students. Arts for All tickets are available. Running time is 1 hour 10 minutes, followed by a 30-minute panel discussion. Information and advance sales: theportlandballet.org or 503-452-8448.

[Parking information at Cinema 21 is available here.](#)

PANELISTS

Scott Gormley, director and producer of *Danseur*, will lead the panel discussion. He is a former creative director turned independent film producer. In addition to working on several short films, he has produced creative projects for Verizon, NY Islanders, Lamborghini, Scholastic Inc., Vivendi/Universal, The Direct Marketing Association, and Thompson Financial.

Zachary Carroll, a founding member of The Portland Ballet faculty, received his early training at the University of Arizona. He attended The National Ballet School in Toronto, Canada, on full scholarship. He has performed as a soloist and principal for Oregon Ballet Theatre, Minnesota Dance Theatre, and Ballet West, has been a member of Skinner/Kirk Dance Ensemble, and has appeared as a guest performer for numerous companies. He performed and toured for more than a decade with BodyVox, where he continues to teach classes.

Peter Franc is a principal dancer at Oregon Ballet Theatre. He began dancing at age 11 and trained at Metropolitan Ballet Theatre, Louisville Ballet School, and Houston Ballet Academy. He has danced professionally with Houston Ballet and Aspen Sante Fe Ballet.

Theodore Skye Stouber trained at The Portland Ballet, Houston Ballet Academy, and San Francisco Ballet School. He has danced professionally with Skinner/Kirk Dance Ensemble and Oregon Ballet Theatre. In November 2018, he performed as a guest artist in the role of Theseus in John Clifford’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* for The Portland Ballet.

ABOUT THE PORTLAND BALLET

The Portland Ballet, a world-class 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 major professional companies and conservatory programs throughout the U.S. and abroad.

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