

THE PORTLAND BALLET

NANCY DAVIS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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MEDIA RELEASE

The Portland Ballet presents Shakespeare's enchanting comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



Photo: Blaine Truitt Covert

**"Fast-paced choreography, clearly and musically executed ... a pleasure to watch."
– *The Oregonian***

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April 2, 2024 — PORTLAND, OR. Prepare to be transported to a realm of romantic entanglements, mischief, and magic as The Portland Ballet presents John Clifford's captivating interpretation of William Shakespeare's timeless tale, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Set to the enchanting music of Felix Mendelssohn, this ballet promises to delight audiences of all ages. There will be two performances at Lincoln Hall on May 11 at 1 and 5 p.m. Tickets go on sale April 10.

Featuring a talented cast of over 70 dancers, Clifford's choreography brings to life Shakespeare's iconic characters and their muddled relationships in a comedic production that seamlessly blends mistaken identities, misguided passions, and love potions gone awry. Against the backdrop of lavish sets and dazzling costumes, the stage comes alive with the whimsical energy of Shakespeare's most magical comedy.

The show features a wide variety of challenging choreography from the fleet-footedness of fairies, the antics of rustics, as well as the style and grace of nobility. The story 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, proving that “the course of true love never did run smooth.”

First performed by The Portland Ballet in 2011 and 2012, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* returned to the stage in 2018, and is now back by popular demand. With each reprise, the show offers growth opportunities for young dancers to advance into more technical roles. “We are so excited to be performing John Clifford’s *A Midsummer Night's Dream* after an eight-year hiatus!” said Artistic Director Nancy Davis. “Some of our Youth Company dancers who were little bugs in 2018 will now perform principal roles. This ballet delights audience members of all ages with its breathtakingly beautiful sets and costumes, fantastic professional-quality choreography, and just the right amount of whimsy and humor. Not to be missed!”

Audience members are invited to stay after every performance to meet the cast for photo opportunities and to get their programs signed.

THE CAST

The cast is comprised of 70 dancers from The Portland Ballet’s Academy, Youth Company, and Career Track programs. Young dancers will have their very first performance opportunities as members of the ensemble and pre-professional dancers will showcase their skills in the lead roles.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Choreographer John Clifford (TPB artistic advisor and a favored protégé of George Balanchine), returns to Portland after wowing TPB audiences in 2011, 2012, and 2018. The ballet is staged by TPB Artistic Director Nancy Davis who is joined by Costume Designer Mary Muhlbach, Set Designer Liliya Drubetskaya, and lighting designs by Michael Mazzola, recreated by James Mapes.

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: May 11, 2024 at 1 and 5 p.m.

Where: Lincoln Performance Hall at Portland State University, 1620 SW Park at Market, Portland, OR.

To Purchase Regular Tickets: Prices are \$16-\$40. Tickets will go on sale on April 10 and may be purchased at theportlandballet.org/performance/current-classic, by emailing tickets@theportlandballet.org, or by calling 503-452-8448.

Ticket Specials: Discounts are available for Groups of 10+ and Arts for All tickets.

Student Tickets: \$10-\$18.

Family Package: When purchasing two adult and two or more youth tickets, all youth tickets will be discounted – \$7 off in Tier 1, \$6 off in Tier 2, and \$5 off in Tier 3.

Please Note: The show is for all ages.

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 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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