

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2010-2011 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT

Marissa Montenegro, Public Relations Manager

Office: 215.587.6923

Cell: 215.873.7891

Fax: 215.551.7224

mmontenegro@paballet.org

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET OPENS 2010-2011 SEASON WITH *CARMEN*

Carmen Triple Bill

October 21-24 at the Academy of Music

Concerto Barocco by George Balanchine

Penumbra by Matthew Neenan

Carmen by Roland Petit

Philadelphia, PA (September 22, 2010) – Pennsylvania Ballet ignites its 2010-2011 Season with a sizzling program featuring the Company premiere of Roland Petit’s *Carmen*, October 21-24 at the Academy of Music at Broad and Locust Streets. *Carmen Triple Bill* also includes *Concerto Barocco* by George Balanchine and *Penumbra* by Matthew Neenan, Pennsylvania Ballet’s Choreographer in Residence.

“Roland Petit’s *Carmen* expertly captures the drama of the theater in a beautifully choreographed ballet,” Artistic Director Roy Kaiser says. “The simplicity of *Concerto Barocco* and the elegance of *Penumbra* compliment this work perfectly. *Carmen Triple Bill* is sure to be one thrilling evening of dance.”

French-born choreographer Roland Petit’s seductive *Carmen* is an irresistible blend of sensuality, theatricality, and style. Inspired by the famous opera of the same name and set to Georges Bizet’s score, *Carmen* follows the torrid and tragic affair between its temptress title character and her lover, Don José. *Carmen*’s fiery movement and unbridled passion leave audiences breathless. Performed countless times overseas, Petit’s *Carmen* has not often been presented in the United States, making it a rare treat for Philadelphia audiences.

Concerto Barocco is itself a piece of Pennsylvania Ballet history. The first ballet George Balanchine ever gave to the Company, *Concerto Barocco* was featured in Pennsylvania Ballet’s very first program in 1963. Clean, pure, and exhilarating, *Concerto Barocco*’s choreography is a near-perfect reflection of the score crafted by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Matthew Neenan’s *Penumbra* is an intimate work for five dancers. First premiered by Pennsylvania Ballet in June 2008, *Penumbra* quickly became a favorite of the dancers to perform, with lots of partnering and interaction among them. The piece is set to an Alberto Ginastera score for cello and piano that creates a somber yet sweet mood on stage.

Tickets to *Carmen* Triple Bill are on sale now, with prices ranging from \$30 to \$139. Tickets are available online at paballet.org, by phone at 215.893.1999, and in person at the Kimmel Center Box Office.

Carmen Triple Bill performances at the Academy of Music:

- Thursday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 22 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, October 23 at 2 p.m.
- Saturday, October 23 at 8 p.m.
- Sunday, October 24 at 2 p.m.

Carmen Fall Gala

Pennsylvania Ballet celebrates the opening of the 2010-2011 Season and the Company Premiere of Roland Petit's *Carmen* at its annual **Fall Gala** on Wednesday, October 20. The evening begins with a private performance of *Carmen* at the Academy of Music at 6:30 p.m. Cocktails, dinner, and dancing with the dancers will follow at the Union League of Philadelphia. The 2010 Gala Committee is co-chaired by Kina and Harry Clark, Georgiana and Eric Noll, Christa and Calvin Schmidt, and Molly and Fabio Terlevich.

Tickets for this black tie fundraiser are on sale now for \$350 to \$750 per person and \$3,500 to \$10,000 per table. For more information and tickets, contact Special Events Manager Barbara Vogdes at 215.587.6916 or bvogdes@paballet.org.

Join the movement... subscribe!

2010-2011 Season subscriptions are on sale now at 215.893.1955 and at paballet.org. Save up to 30% with a full season subscription, starting at \$109.80. Subscribers enjoy the best seats at the best prices, personalized service, lost ticket insurance, flexible ticket exchanges, discounted parking, and priority seating for *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*TM.

George Balanchine's The NutcrackerTM

Tickets are on sale now for Pennsylvania Ballet's holiday classic, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*TM, December 4-31 at the Academy of Music. Visit paballet.org or call 215.893.1999.

Group Tickets

Groups of 10 or more receive great discounts and unique perks! Ask about backstage tours, special talks with staff and dancers, dining options near the theater, and holiday parties for your group. For tickets and more information, contact Group Sales Manager Arajua Backman at 215.587.6921 or abackman@paballet.org.

Beyond the Stage

For the 2010-2011 Season, Pennsylvania Ballet offers the opportunity to enrich your dance experience with two enlightening series. On opening night of each program, enjoy the brand new **Before the Curtain** series. Listen as dancers, choreographers, and other guests give an insider's view into Pennsylvania Ballet's performances and savor a light dinner buffet. Hosted by renowned dance and culture scholar Brenda Dixon-Gottschild, Before the Curtain is held on Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel at Broad and Locust Streets. Don't forget

that our ever-popular **Prologue** series, hosted by Artistic Director Roy Kaiser, is also available now on Friday evenings. Before the Curtain and Prologue can each be added to a full series subscription for \$150.

Connect with us!

Follow Pennsylvania Ballet on **Twitter**, **Facebook**, and **YouTube** to go behind-the-scenes. Visit the newly re-designed **paballet.org**. Plus, text “PABALLET” to 77950 to join our mobile club, **MyPABallet**, and receive special offers and news about the Company!

Key Support for *Carmen* Triple Bill

The Company premiere of *Carmen* is made possible by a grant from The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through Dance Advance.

Blank Rome LLP is the Lead Sponsor of *Carmen* Triple Bill.

Pennsylvania Ballet’s 2010-2011 Season sponsors include The Omni Hotel at Independence Park, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Sporting Club at the Bellevue, and US Airways.

Pennsylvania Ballet receives support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Founded in 1963 by Balanchine student and protégée Barbara Weisberger, **Pennsylvania Ballet** is one of the nation’s leading ballet companies. Headquartered in Philadelphia, the Company’s annual local season features six programs of classic favorites and new works, including the Philadelphia holiday tradition, *George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker*TM. For more information, visit paballet.org or call 215.551.7000.

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