

# PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ANGEL CORELLA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2014–2015 SEASON

## For Immediate Release

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## Pennsylvania Ballet Presents a Tribute to West Side Story Choreographer, Jerome Robbins

**Philadelphia, PA (April 7, 2015)** – [Pennsylvania Ballet](#) celebrates the versatility and genius of famed American choreographer, Jerome Robbins, with [A Tribute to Jerome Robbins](#) that includes the company premiere of *In G Major*, and performances of *The Concert* and *Fancy Free* on the Academy of Music stage, May 7-10, sponsored by Cigna.

“Aside from his better-known Broadway successes, Robbins was truly a renowned ballet choreographer,” said Artistic Director Angel Corella. “He had the amazing ability to epitomize life through lyrical and spontaneous looking movement. I am thrilled we are presenting this wonderful tribute.”

World famous for his work on blockbusters like *West Side Story* and *The King and I*, Robbins also created superb ballets that exude the same panache and flair. The entire family can celebrate Mother’s Day as they enjoy the energetic and hilarious works that anchor this performance.

Whimsical and serene, the Company premiere of *In G Major* features an exquisite pas de deux set to Maurice Ravel’s well-known *Piano Concerto in G Major*. The ballet consists of a lead couple and 12 men and women running and jumping around playfully in chic bathing wear in an aquatic-inspired setting. Jerome Robbins originally created it for New York City Ballet’s Ravel Festival in 1975.

*Fancy Free* is a playful piece that features the dynamic story of three sailors on leave from World War II who are courting two beautiful girls on a hot summer night in New York City. The ballet was first presented by Ballet Theatre, the predecessor to American Ballet Theatre, in 1944 and was Robbins’ first collaboration with Leonard Bernstein. A year later, the two joined forces again to expand *Fancy Free* into the hit Broadway musical, *On the Town*. The team then transformed that show into the movie of the same name, starring Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra.

*The Concert* is a riotous masterpiece created in 1956, which follows the actions and straying thoughts of audience members gathered to hear a Chopin piano concert. The humorous story portrays the interactions of a wide-eyed music fan, a pair of teenage gum chewers, a bored husband, his stern wife and an angry lady who just wants to hear the music. The production will delight audiences with its clever

and witty take on classical music performances. Solo Pianist Martha Koeneman will also get involved in the on-stage action, performing the Chopin score accompanied by haughty gestures and funny antics.

**The performances at the Academy of Music run:**

- Thursday, May 7 at 7:30pm
- Friday, May 8 at 7:30pm
- Saturday, May 9 at 2:00pm
- Saturday, May 9 at 8:00pm
- Sunday, May 10 at 2:00pm

*Tickets are available online at [paballet.org](http://paballet.org) or by phone at 215.893.1999, and in person at the Kimmel Center Box Office.*

**Conversations with Pennsylvania Ballet**

Please join Company Member Craig Wasserman at Conversations with Pennsylvania Ballet, a free informal discussion, where Craig will talk about his experience preparing for *A Tribute to Jerome Robbins*. This free event will be held on **Monday, May 4th at 6:30pm** at the Philadelphia City Institute Free Library (1905 Locust St, Philadelphia, PA).

**On the Town with Pennsylvania Ballet**

On this Mother's Day weekend, enjoy time with your family at the matinee performance of *A Tribute to Jerome Robbins* at the Academy of Music, followed by a family-friendly after party at the Arts Ballroom (1324 Locust Street). During the after party your entire family will have the opportunity to meet and have their photos taken with the sailors featured in *Fancy Free*, and take in a special performance from Pennsylvania Ballet II students. Tickets are \$150, which includes a parquet seat for the performance and admission to the party. [Click here](#) to buy tickets.

**About Pennsylvania Ballet**

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*™. For more information, visit [www.paballet.org](http://www.paballet.org), call 215.551.7000 or connect with us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) to go behind the scenes at any time.

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Pennsylvania Ballet's season sponsors include DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, The Sporting Club at the Bellevue, and US Airways.

Pennsylvania Ballet receives support from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts – a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency – and The Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

**Groups of 10 or more get discounts and great seats!** Ask about special talks with staff and dancers and dining options near the theater for your group. For tickets and more information, contact Group Sales Manager Arajua Backman at 215.587.6921 or [abackman@paballet.org](mailto:abackman@paballet.org).

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