Pennsylvania Ballet announces two major promotions

Francis Veyette to Principal Dancer and Lauren Fadeley to Soloist

Philadelphia, PA (May 31, 2011) — Pennsylvania Ballet Artistic Director Roy Kaiser announces the promotion of Francis Veyette to Principal Dancer and Lauren Fadeley to Soloist for the 2011-2012 Season. Mr. Veyette is currently a Soloist with the Company and Ms. Fadeley is a member of the Corps de Ballet. The dancers are also engaged to be married with an October 2011 wedding planned in the bride’s hometown of Orlando, Florida.

“Both Francis and Lauren have delivered moving performances this season and throughout their entire careers here at Pennsylvania Ballet,” Artistic Director Roy Kaiser says. “I am delighted to acknowledge their talent and dedication with these promotions.”

In March, Mr. Veyette and Ms. Fadeley premiered in the principal roles of Prince Siegfried and Odette/Odile in Christopher Wheeldon’s Swan Lake. The pair first met in 1997 at The Rock School for Dance Education and reconnected ten years later, when Ms. Fadeley joined Pennsylvania Ballet. They now reside in South Philadelphia with their cat, Lily, and dog, Emmett. Mr. Veyette and Ms. Fadeley can next be seen onstage with Pennsylvania Ballet in La Fille mal gardée, June 2-11, 2011 at the Academy of Music. Tickets are available online at paballet.org, by phone at 215.893.1999, or in person at the Kimmel Center Box Office.

Francis Veyette is a California native and began his dance training at age 10 at Dance Arts in Visalia, California. He also studied at Westside Ballet in Santa Monica and took summer sessions at The School of American Ballet in New York City and The Rock School for Dance Education in Philadelphia.

Mr. Veyette began as an Apprentice with Pennsylvania Ballet in 1997 and was promoted to the Corps de Ballet in September 1999. His featured roles included Candy Cane and Tea in George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™, Bluebird in The Sleeping Beauty, Petrushio in The Taming of the Shrew, and Titania's Cavalier in A Midsummer Night's Dream. In August of 2003, Mr. Veyette joined Kansas City Ballet under the artistic direction of William Whitener, where he danced for two seasons. His featured roles include the principal couple in Balanchine's Square Dance and Theme and Variations, Cavalier and Drosselmeyer in The Nutcracker, the Husband in Jerome Robbins' The Concert, the principal couple in Paquita, and the Peasant pas de deux in Giselle. He appeared as a guest artist with Pennsylvania Ballet on three occasions during the 2004-2005 Season, before returning to the Company for the 2005-2006 Season as a member of...
the Corps de Ballet. Mr. Veyette was promoted to Soloist for the 2007-2008 Season. He has created featured roles in several Matthew Neenan ballets including 11:11, As It's Going, Penumbra, and Pampeana No.2.

In addition, Mr. Veyette has made guest appearances with Massachusetts Youth Ballet, Westside Ballet, Festival Ballet Theatre, and BalletX. He also appeared in Japan during the summers of 2002 and 2004, dancing Balanchine's Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux, Giselle, and Le Corsaire. He has also created several of his own works over the years for the annual MANNA benefit Shut Up and Dance and Kansas City Ballet's "In the Wings" program.

Lauren Fadeley was born in Orlando, Florida, where she began her dance training at the age of four. She trained at the Orlando Ballet School and the School of Performing Arts in Florida, along with summer intensives at The Rock School of Pennsylvania Ballet and The School of American Ballet. In 2000, after studying at SAB for three consecutive summers, Ms. Fadeley moved to New York City at the age of 15 to study there full-time. While at SAB, she performed in New York City Ballet lecture demonstrations, dancing leading roles in Stars and Stripes, Agon, and A Midsummer Night's Dream, along with the annual workshop performance, dancing in Divertimento #15 and an original role in Melissa Barak's Telemann Overture.

After completing a year at SAB, Ms. Fadeley was invited by Peter Martins to join New York City Ballet. While there, she performed in numerous works by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Peter Martins, and Christopher Wheeldon. After two years with New York City Ballet, Ms. Fadeley decided to further her academic and dance education by attending Indiana University. While at IU, she performed principal roles in Serenade, Sonatine, The Nutcracker, Spring Waters, Cinderella, Who Cares?, Paquita, Napoli, and Allegro Brillante. In May 2007, she graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Ballet Performance with an outside field in Kinesiology.

Since joining Pennsylvania Ballet in 2007, Ms. Fadeley has originated feature roles in Peter Quanz's Jupiter Symphony, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's Requiem for a Rose, and Matthew Neenan's Pampeana, Keep, and At the border. She has also performed soloist roles in George Balanchine's The Nutcracker™ (Lead Marzipan and Dewdrop), Messiah, Kazimir's Colours, Ballo Della Regina, Cinderella (Summer Fairy), Octet for Strings, Five Tangos, and La Sylphide.

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 paballet.org or call 215.551.7000.

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