

August 16, 2010

For Calendar Listings and Editorial Consideration

PHOTOS AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

Contact: Jim Lane, The Portland Ballet – 503-380-9356, jim@theportlandballet.org

Portland, Oregon – The Portland Ballet will be returning to the Newmark Theatre this year to present its holiday classic, *La Boutique Fantasque* Thanksgiving weekend – November 26 through 28 – in collaboration with Portland State University Orchestra.

Now in its 8th year, TPB's beloved production of *La Boutique Fantasque* – translated in English as “the enchanted toyshop” – has become a tradition for families throughout Portland. Leonide Massine choreographed Rossini's *La Boutique Fantasque* in 1919 for impresario Serge Diaghilev's Ballets Russes. The Portland Ballet's production has been skillfully updated specifically for the youth company's dancers by ballet legend John Clifford, former Artistic Director of the original Los Angeles Ballet.

Last year Portland State University Orchestra lead by Conductor Ken Selden joined forces with TPB to bring live music to the production. The partnership was so successful that the two organizations have decided to repeat the holiday collaboration annually.

Martha Ullman West – Special to The Oregonian – wrote in her review last year, “...Portland Ballet's opening performance of “*La Boutique Fantasque*” on Friday afternoon at the Newmark Theater, delighting equally the audience of adults and children.” “Live music, of course, makes all the difference, energizing the dancers to perform with an on-the-spot clarity and spontaneity...”

*La Boutique*'s magical moments, danced to a delightfully light and high-spirited score, take place in a circa 1900's toyshop on the French Riviera run by Gerard, a doddering shopkeeper, and his wife, Amélie. The ballet opens with the couple preparing for what they hope will be a profitable day, and after a near mutiny of the toys lead by Pinocchio, ends in a grand finale danced by dozens of toys.

Artistic Director Nancy Davis and Managing Director Jim Lane – former principal dancers with The Los Angeles Ballet – decided to set *La Boutique* for their company years ago while searching for a holiday ballet alternative to *The Nutcracker*. Mr. Lane remembered dancing in a production of *La Boutique* as a student. “I thought ok, toys dancing, festive music... maybe this will work.” Another key factor in selecting this ballet for Ms. Davis was that the roles offered a path of advancement for TPB's students. “To be part of the process of developing these professional caliber dancers for the future is deeply gratifying. Over the past seven years we have watched our 8 and 10-year-old dancers advance from smaller roles to leading roles in the production and then go off to professional careers. To see the joy and sense of accomplishment on their young faces is so rewarding for all of us at TPB.”

*La Boutique Fantasque* will be presented at the Newmark Theatre, 1111 SW Broadway (at Main Street) in downtown Portland. Performances are Friday 11/26 at 7:30pm, Saturday 11/27 at 2:30pm & 7:30pm and Sunday 11/28 at 1:00pm & 4:00pm. Tickets are Adult \$18 - \$45, Child/Student \$12 - \$25, Senior (62+) \$15 - \$35. Tickets are available from TicketMaster, the TPB website – [www.theportlandballet.org](http://www.theportlandballet.org), and at the PCPA box office located at 1111 SW Broadway. Group tickets are available by calling 503-452-8448.