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**The Portland Ballet Offers Free, Open Rehearsals Leading Up to Its  
 Thanksgiving Weekend World Premiere of John Clifford's  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream***

**October 8, 22, November 5, 19, 2 – 4 PM**

Every other Saturday from October 8

**Free, open rehearsals of *A Midsummer Night's Dream***

**The Portland Ballet Studio • 6250 SW Capitol Highway**

**www.theportlandballet.org • 503-452-8448**

**John Clifford's** charming – and challenging – choreography, created specifically for **The Portland Ballet** dancer, is complete. The **PSU Orchestra (Ken Selden, conductor)** is tuning up for its live performances of Mendelssohn's enchanting score. Fittings for **Mary Muhlbach's** marvelous costumes are underway. Now it's time for the cast of 83 young dancers, age seven to 18, to rehearse, rehearse, rehearse for the Thanksgiving weekend world premiere of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

After eight years of box office and critical success with *La Boutique Fantasque*, The Portland Ballet wants to share its excitement about the new production in every way possible. So, kicking off with an **Oregon Days of Culture** event on Saturday, October 8, it's opening its rehearsals to **free** public view on four Saturdays: October 8 and 22, November 5 and 19, 2 – 4 PM at the studio, 6250 SW Capitol Highway. TPB Artistic Director **Nancy Davis** will lead each rehearsal and discuss the work, briefly, at the beginning and end of each session. This is a rare opportunity to watch the evolution of a world premiere by highly talented, well-trained and performance-committed young dancers. Information: [www.theportlandballet.org](http://www.theportlandballet.org), 503-452-8448

Many TPB graduates go on to professional careers in ballet with companies such as Houston Ballet, St. Louis Ballet, Ballet Memphis and Ballet Idaho. Others are accepted in the professional divisions of The School of American Ballet, Miami City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet and Boston Ballet. They also earn dance scholarships at universities such as Tisch School of the Arts at NYU, University of Arizona, University of Indiana, and The University of Utah.

When the production opens on Friday, November 25 at PSU's Lincoln Hall, in addition to world premiere choreography, live music with full orchestra and original costumes, The Portland Ballet's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will feature a backdrop commissioned from **PNCA** student artist **Liliya Drubetskaya**; and lighting from noted designer **Michael Mazzola**. This fully professional production speaks to the excellence TPB expects of its dancers and delivers to its audience.

Please see next page for more TPB fall event details.

### **October 14, “Shine a Light” at Portland Art Museum**

On Friday, October 14, TPB will be the only dance company participating in the **Portland Art Museum’s** 3<sup>rd</sup> annual “**Shine a Light**,” a multi-disciplinary, interactive and innovative event to open the museum to new ideas and new audiences. At 7 PM and 8 PM, in two brief excerpts from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, TPB dancers will engage the audience by moving gracefully through sculptures on the mezzanine overlooking the Museum’s main lobby. Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park Avenue; Information: 503-226-2811, www.portlandartmuseum.org

### **November 25-26-27, world premiere of John Clifford’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream***

**The Portland Ballet** (Nancy Davis, artistic director) will perform the world premiere of **John Clifford’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream***, from November 25 – 27, 2011 at PSU’s Lincoln Hall, 1620 SW Park at Market. The production, with original costumes, set, lighting and Felix Mendelssohn’s music performed live by the **PSU Orchestra** (**Ken Selden**, conductor), has six performances only, immediately following Thanksgiving Day: Friday, November 25, 2:30 PM (preview) and 7:30 PM (opening night); Saturday and Sunday, November 26 and 27, 1 PM and 4 PM. Tickets for the one-hour ballet, range from \$15 - \$35, with family discount available, and can be purchased at www.theportlandballet.org, the PSU box office or TPB studio. Information: 503-452-8448.

The Portland Ballet has, for the past several years presented a holiday production with a twist: it wasn’t *The Nutcracker* and it wasn’t in December. This year, the company has added even more imaginative zest to its holiday production. Its Thanksgiving weekend performances will evoke the anything-goes atmosphere of the leafy, mysterious, romantic and silly! cool of an August night when The Portland Ballet presents the world premiere of John Clifford’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

Based on Shakespeare’s play, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* is a timelessly popular tale of foolish fairies, mixed up humans, mischievous sprites and love-sick donkeys. It’s a comedic confection to delight the entire family. The story, with its varieties of romance, fantasy and foolery, diaphanous gowns and shimmering fairy wings, is extremely well-suited to ballet. The irresistible scamp Robin Goodfellow, better known as Puck, was made to cavort across a dance stage.

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**The Portland Ballet** (TPB) nurtures young dancers from age three to 22. TPB students are trained with professional intent, and the enrichment and expectation that brings. TPB dancers leave the school with the life skills – commitment, discipline, teamwork, curiosity, accomplishment -- that bring success in any endeavor.

The pinnacle of TPB’s curriculum is its annual, fully-professional produced holiday production. The production has original staging, costumes, set and live music – a standard of excellence for its dancers and audience that is at play every day in the studio of TPB.

TPB was established in 2001 by Nancy Davis (artistic director) and Jim Lane (managing director), former principal dancers with the original Los Angeles Ballet. There, they worked closely with Los Angeles Ballet founder John Clifford, one-time New York City Ballet principal dancer and choreographer, who is now TPB’s frequent guest choreographer.

The Portland Ballet is generously supported by **Regional Arts and Culture Council, Work for Art, The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, The Herbert B. Jones Foundation** and **Juan Young Trust; The Oregonian** and **All Classical**; its board and individuals donors. It participates in the “Arts for All” initiative.