



LOS ANGELES BALLET

LOS ANGELES BALLET'S SIXTH SEASON TO FEATURE *SWAN LAKE* 2011-2012 SEASON KICKS OFF WITH *THE NUTCRACKER*

Carpenter and Valley Performing Arts Centers Added to Venue Line-up

(Los Angeles, CA) Los Angeles Ballet Artistic Directors Thordal Christensen and Colleen Neary are pleased to announce LAB's sixth season. Los Angeles' own professional ballet company will premiere *Swan Lake*, choreographed by the Artistic Directors, after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov. Continuing to reach out to new audiences, LAB will offer performances at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center in Long Beach and the Valley Performing Arts Center in Northridge for the very first time.

Once again LAB will kick off its season with the Neary-Christensen choreographed production of *The Nutcracker*, the city's most enduring holiday tradition. *Swan Lake*, the company's fourth full length ballet, (after *The Nutcracker*, *La Sylphide*, and *Giselle*), will be presented in March 2012, and the 2011-2012 season will conclude in May with *NextWave LA*, featuring four World Premieres created specifically for LAB by Sonya Tayeh, Josie Walsh, and Stacey Tookey, and one other choreographer to be announced.

"Our sixth season reflects LAB's on-going commitment to celebrating classic ballet as well as showcasing exciting new choreography," said Christensen. "We are particularly pleased to be extending our audience reach with performances of *Swan Lake* in Long Beach and Northridge."

"This season will also feature LAB's first principal dancers, Allyssa Bross and Christopher Revels, and the return of many outstanding members of our company," added Neary. "We continue to advance the quality of dancing, which is what enables us to present productions ranging from *Swan Lake* to *NextWave LA*."

Los Angeles Ballet is also pleased to announce the formation of Young Professionals, a group of early to mid-career individuals who actively participate in the Los Angeles arts environment through support of Los Angeles Ballet.

Young Professionals was launched on July 29th with a social mixer at the Duncan Miller Gallery in West LA. Attendees enjoyed an exhibit of Kim Weston's new work based on his silver gelatin photographs of ballerinas. A number of LAB dancers were in attendance and a percentage of the gallery's sales benefitted Los Angeles Ballet.

LAB continues to build a repertoire that underscores the creative leadership of its artistic directors, presenting timeless classics as well as innovative choreography from today's contemporary artists.

Season subscriptions and tickets are now available. Reserve now by calling **310.998.7782** or by visiting www.losangelesballet.org

About 2011-2012 Performances

The Nutcracker – December 2011

Los Angeles Ballet inaugurates its sixth season with the holiday favorite, *The Nutcracker*, to Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's illustrious score. Featuring sets with a Los Angeles flair by LA designer Catherine Kanner and costumes originally designed by Mikael Melbye, *The Nutcracker* debuted in LAB's first season as an original production.

Swan Lake – March 2012

Los Angeles Ballet presents the legendary classic, *Swan Lake*, the abiding tale of a Swan Queen, a Prince, an evil spell, and an eternal love. Choreographed by LAB Artistic Directors Thordal Christensen and Colleen Neary after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, this renowned story is set to Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's rapturous score.

NextWave LA – May 2012

Four guest choreographers will display their World Premieres in one evening, a rare treat in the world of ballet. This program faithfully continues Los Angeles Ballet's mission of incorporating new creations specifically for LAB dancers. Guest choreographers include Sonya Tayeh, Josie Walsh, Stacey Tookey, with one other to be announced.

About the Artistic Directors

Thordal Christensen is the co-Artistic Director of Los Angeles Ballet. The world of dance claims Mr. Christensen as one of its most respected citizens. Mr. Christensen danced with the Royal Danish Ballet, New York City Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet in major roles in the classical and modern repertoire. He was appointed artistic director of the Royal Danish Ballet and the Royal Danish Ballet School in 1999. During his leadership he advanced the company repertoire and school to new levels. In 2002, Mr. Christensen was appointed Knight of Dannebrog by Her Majesty Margrethe II.

Colleen Neary is the co-Artistic Director of Los Angeles Ballet. Ms. Neary danced as a soloist from 1969 to 1979 in the New York City Ballet under the direction of George Balanchine. She had numerous roles created for her by George Balanchine, Peter Martins, Jacques d'Amboise and others.

She was invited in 1979 to be Ballet Mistress and Choreographic Assistant for the Zurich Ballet. During this period she also staged Rudolf Nureyev's *Don Quixote* and *Manfred* for La Scala de Milan, Zurich Ballet and Vienna State Opera. In 1984 she was invited to be Principal Guest Artist and company teacher for Maurice Béjart's *Ballet du XXIème Siècle* where he created several roles for her. In 1986 she was invited to join Pacific Northwest Ballet as Principal Dancer. In 1992 she joined The Royal Danish Ballet as Ballet Mistress and company teacher. By 1999 she became First Ballet Mistress in charge of productions, a position she held until 2002.

Ms. Neary is a member of the George Balanchine Trust and has staged many of his ballets, including *Agon*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Theme and Variations*, *Rubies*, *Serenade*, *Tarantella*, *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*, *Divertimento no.15*, *Piano Concerto no. 2*, *Concerto Barocco*, *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*, and *Symphony in C*, for leading companies around the world.

About Los Angeles Ballet

Launched in 2006 by co-artistic directors Thordal Christensen and Colleen Neary, Los Angeles Ballet enjoyed a successful first season as the city's own professional ballet company focused on capturing the creative aesthetic unique to Southern California. Los Angeles Ballet is committed to bringing world class dance and great dancers to every

corner of Southern California through performing at different venues accessible to communities across the Southland and presenting varied programs designed to appeal to a large and diverse base of fans who will grow to become devoted, supportive patrons. LAB made a special appearance on the FOX network's hit show, *So You Think You Can Dance*, in which they performed an excerpt from Balanchine's *Who Cares?* with a classical American score by Gershwin/Kay.

About *Young Professionals*

Membership in *Young Professionals* offers a rare opportunity to go behind the scenes in the exciting world of dance. A one-year, tax-deductible membership in *Young Professionals* is \$250. Benefits include:

- Complimentary attendance at quarterly Young Professionals mixers
- 15% discount on full price Los Angeles Ballet performance tickets
- Invitation to observe a company class or dress rehearsal
- Recognition in Los Angeles Ballet playbills
- Signed pointe shoe upon request

For more information about *Young Professionals* or future mixers, please e-mail contact@losangelesballet.org or call (310) 477-7411.

The Company, a not-for-profit arts organization, makes its professional home at the Los Angeles Ballet Center in Los Angeles. Julie Whittaker is the Company's Executive Director.

2011/2012 SUBSCRIPTION SERIES*
Ticket Information: 310-998-7782;
<http://www.losangelesballet.org>

Media Contact:
Emel Shaikh
MPRM Communications
323-933-3399 ext. 4218
eshaikh@mprm.com

LOS ANGELES BALLET 2011-2012 SEASON AT A GLANCE BY VENUE

ALEX THEATRE, GLENDALE

216 North Brand Boulevard
Glendale, CA 91203

The Nutcracker

Saturday, December 3, 2011 @ 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 4, 2011 @ 2:00pm

- Original production choreographed by Christensen and Neary

Swan Lake

Saturday, March 17, 2012 @ 7:30pm

NextWave LA

Saturday, May 19, 2012 @ 7:30pm

REDONDO BEACH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

1935 Manhattan Beach Boulevard
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

The Nutcracker

Friday, December 23, 2011 @ 7:30pm

Saturday, December 24, 2011 @ 1:00pm

Saturday, December 24, 2011 @5:00pm

- Original production choreographed by Christensen and Neary

Swan Lake

Saturday, March 10, 2012 @ 7:30pm

NextWave LA

Saturday, May 12, 2012 @ 7:30pm

ROYCE HALL, UCLA

340 Royce Drive

Los Angeles, CA 90095

The Nutcracker

Saturday, December 17, 2011 @ 1:00pm

Saturday, December 17, 2011 @ 5:00pm

Sunday, December 18, 2011 @1:00pm

Sunday, December 18, 2011 @5:00pm

- Original production choreographed by Christensen and Neary

Swan Lake

Saturday, March 3, 2012 @ 7:30pm

Sunday, March 4, 2012 @ 2:00pm

CARPENTER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

6200 East Atherton Street

Long Beach, CA 90815

Swan Lake

Saturday, March 24, 2012 @7:30pm

VALLEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

18111 Nordhoff Street

Northridge, CA 91330

Swan Lake

Saturday, March 31, 2012 @ 7:30pm

THE BROAD STAGE

1310 11th Street

Santa Monica, CA 90401

NextWave LA

Saturday, May 26, 2012 @ 2:00pm

Saturday, May 26, 2012 @ 7:30pm

Sunday, May 27, 2012 @ 2:00pm

*Repertoire subject to change