



## LOS ANGELES BALLET

### LOS ANGELES BALLET PRESENTS FOUR WORLD PREMIERES IN *NEXTWAVE*LA

Featuring Internationally Acclaimed Southern California Choreographers  
Kitty McNamee, Sonya Tayeh, Stacey Tookey and Josie Walsh

(Los Angeles, CA) – Los Angeles Ballet will present four World Premieres created specifically for the company by internationally acclaimed choreographers based in Southern California - Kitty McNamee, Sonya Tayeh, Stacey Tookey and Josie Walsh - announced Los Angeles Ballet Artistic Directors Thordal Christensen and Colleen Neary. The **NextWaveLA** program will be offered at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, Glendale's Alex Theatre and The Broad Stage in Santa Monica beginning May 12.

"This remarkable quartet of choreographers reflect a broad range of style and sensibility but share in common incredible talent and a commitment to drive the art of dance forward," said Christensen. "This marks LAB's third collaboration with Sonya, second with Josie, and the first time Kitty and Stacey have choreographed for our company, although we know their work well. Thanks to their participation, **NextWaveLA** has become one of our most anticipated programs," added Neary.

Kitty McNamee is the artistic director of Hysterica Dance Co., a consistently prolific and invigorating force in the LA dance community. Her work includes original productions for LA Opera, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and LA Philharmonic, among others.

Best known for her work as a guest judge, and contemporary and "combat jazz" choreographer on *So You Think You Can Dance*, Sonya Tayeh travels the world teaching workshops, intensive master classes and setting works of choreography. She is on the faculty at Edge Performing Arts Center and Loyola Marymount University.

A two-time Primetime Emmy nominee for her choreography on *So You Think You Can Dance*, Stacey Tookey has also worked with legendary musical artists such as Justin Timberlake, Celine Dion and Bette Midler. She has also performed in concerts as a member of Mia Michaels' company R.A.W. and with Parsons Dance Project in Seoul, Korea, among others.

Fusing aerial acrobatics and gymnastics with edgy pointe work best described as "extreme ballet," Los Angeles-based artistic director/choreographer Josie Walsh creates mini-Vegas-like extravaganzas with her six-year-old MYOKYO Productions. She is a former Joffrey Ballet and Zurich Ballet dancer.

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.

Reserve now by calling **310.998.7782** or by visiting [www.losangelesballet.org](http://www.losangelesballet.org)

### **About the Artistic Directors**

**Thordal Christensen** is the Founding co-Artistic Director for 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 Founding co-Artistic Director for Los Angeles Ballet. Ms. Neary danced as a soloist from 1969 to 1979 with 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.

Since co-founding Los Angeles Ballet in 2006, Ms. Neary and Mr. Christensen have worked continuously to advance the company to one of the nation's most prestigious ballet companies by staging and choreographing increasingly difficult works, such as *La Sylphide*, *The Nutcracker*, *Prodigal Son*, *Giselle*, and now *Swan Lake*.

### **About Los Angeles Ballet**

Launched in 2006 by Co-Artistic Directors Thordal Christensen and Colleen Neary and Executive Director Julie Whittaker, 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 to audiences throughout Southern California by performing at venues in many different communities. Through touring LA County and presenting both classical choreography and new contemporary works, LAB aims to make dance more accessible and appealing to a diverse base of fans who will grow to become devoted, supportive patrons.

The Company, a not-for-profit arts organization, makes its professional home at Los Angeles Ballet Center in Los Angeles, which also house Los Angeles Ballet School.

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

## **LOS ANGELES BALLET NEXTWAVE LA SCHEDULE BY VENUE**

### **REDONDO BEACH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

1935 Manhattan Beach Boulevard  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

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***NextWaveLA***

Saturday, May 12, 2012 @ 7:30pm

**ALEX THEATRE, GLENDALE**

216 North Brand Boulevard  
Glendale, CA 91203

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***NextWaveLA***

Saturday, May 19, 2012 @ 7:30pm

**THE BROAD STAGE**

1310 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90401

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***NextWaveLA***

Saturday, May 26, 2012 @ 2:00pm

Saturday, May 26, 2012 @ 7:30pm

Sunday, May 27, 2012 @ 2:00pm