

LOS ANGELES BALLET

Thordal Christensen & Colleen Neary *Artistic Directors*



For interviews and photos

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Los Angeles Ballet Expands for its 2014-2015 Season!

LAB's 9th season includes three full-length romantic story ballets with music by Tchaikovsky and a mixed bill program

Los Angeles Ballet Co-Artistic Directors Thordal Christensen and Colleen Neary are excited to unveil LAB's 2014-2015 season, which includes the *Tchaikovsky Trilogy*, with three full-length ballets featuring the music of Peter Tchaikovsky, plus a mixed bill program of 20th century masterworks. LAB's ninth season marks the addition of a fall program for a total of four programs, an expansion from 3 productions in all of its previous seasons. A major goal of Los Angeles Ballet's long-term plan, LAB is pleased to achieve this in Season 9!

The *Tchaikovsky Trilogy* includes a new production of *The Sleeping Beauty*, the return of the company's critically-acclaimed productions of *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker* all with choreography by Artistic Directors Christensen and Neary, and closes with a mixed bill program that will include works by 20th century choreographic masters. Continuing LAB's mission to offer world-class professional ballet to greater LA, its programs are performed at LAB's home theaters: UCLA's Royce Hall, Glendale's Alex Theatre, Valley Performing Arts Center in Northridge and Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center. In addition, LAB is proud to announce that in December of this year it will present four performances of *The Nutcracker* at its newest venue - the prestigious Dolby Theatre in Hollywood.

LAB opens the season and its first fall program with the full-length *Swan Lake* (October/November 2014). The company premiered this production during the 2011-2012 season with sold out shows.

"After *Swan Lake* sold out most performances, we had many requests to bring it back. *Swan Lake* is the perfect way to launch this expanded season and respond to our audience requests." Mr. Christensen explained.

The holidays welcome LAB's popular *The Nutcracker* set in 1913 Los Angeles (December 2014). Additional matinees offer more opportunities to see this family favorite and enjoy some of Tchaikovsky's most beloved music.

Spring 2015 opens with the premiere of LAB's new production of *The Sleeping Beauty* (February/March) with choreography by Mr. Christensen and Ms. Neary after the original choreography by Marius Petipa.

"We have wanted to present *The Sleeping Beauty* for several years. The Tchaikovsky score is irresistible, but it is a big, classical ballet that requires a lot from all of the dancers, not just the Principals," Ms. Neary said. "It's an important measure of how the company has grown that we know LAB is ready to bring this magnificent ballet to life."

The season will close with *Directors' Choice*, a mixed bill program that will include *Theme and Variations* by George Balanchine, (also with music by Tchaikovsky), and two other choreographic luminaries (May/June 2015). The specific repertoire will be announced later in 2014.

About Los Angeles Ballet

Founded in 2004 by Artistic Directors Thordal Christensen and Colleen Neary, and Executive Director Julie Whittaker, Los Angeles Ballet is known for its superb stagings of the Balanchine repertory, stylistically meticulous classical ballets, and its commitment to new works. LAB has become recognized as a world-class ballet company in eight seasons, presenting 24 productions encompassing 50 works, including 15 commissioned world premieres. Los Angeles Ballet 'tours' throughout LA County, regularly appearing at four venues. In 2013, the Los Angeles Music Center presented Los Angeles Ballet at Grand Park, with more than 3,000 attending the outdoor performance. In June 2014, Los Angeles Ballet will tour outside of California for the first time, presenting *La Sylphide* and *Serenade* to Seattle, Washington audiences at McCaw Hall at Seattle Center. Since its inception in 2006, LAB's *Power of Performance (POP!)* program has provided thousands of free tickets to underserved or disadvantaged children, seniors, veterans, and their families. LAB's *A Chance to Dance* Community Days outreach program was launched in October 2012.

About Thordal Christensen

Among Thordal Christensen's many credentials are an impressive performing career, successful leadership of one of the world's major ballet companies, critically applauded original choreography, and a proven commitment to dance education. Born in Copenhagen, Denmark, Christensen received his ballet training at The Royal Danish Ballet School and at the School of American Ballet in New York City before a performance career that included the Royal Danish Ballet, New York City Ballet, and Pacific Northwest Ballet. Christensen then returned to Denmark where he was Artistic Director of the Royal Danish Ballet. This blend of Bournonville and Balanchine tradition is one of the defining themes of his career, and has shaped the unique artistic vision that Christensen, along with his wife Colleen Neary, bring to Los Angeles Ballet. In 2002, he was made Knight of the Dannebrog by Queen Margrethe II of Denmark.

About Colleen Neary

Colleen Neary brings to Los Angeles Ballet the benefits of her vast experience as one of George Balanchine's quintessential ballerinas. In her experience as a dancer, teacher, and ballet mistress,

she also worked closely with other luminaries of 20th century dance, including Rudolf Nureyev, Maurice Béjart, and Jiří Kylián. Born in Miami, Florida and trained at The School of American Ballet, Neary danced in New York City Ballet under the direction of George Balanchine, then for Maurice Béjart's *Ballet du XXIème Siecle*, and Pacific Northwest Ballet. Neary was personally selected by Balanchine to teach his choreography to major companies all over the world as a répétiteur for The George Balanchine Trust.

Calendar Listing for Los Angeles Ballet 2014-2015 season

Swan Lake

Venue: Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center - Saturday, October 4th, 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Valley Performing Arts Center - Sunday, October 12th, 2:00 p.m.

Venue: Royce Hall, UCLA – Saturday, October 18th, 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Alex Theatre – Saturday, November 1st, 7:30 p.m.

The Nutcracker

Venue: Alex Theatre - Saturday, December 6th, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 7th, 2:00 p.m.

Venue: Dolby Theatre - Saturday, December 13th, 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 14th, 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Venue: Royce Hall, UCLA – Saturday, December 20th, 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 21st, 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Venue: Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center – Saturday, December 27th, 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 28th, 2:00 p.m.

The Sleeping Beauty

Venue: Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center - Saturday, February 21st, 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Valley Performing Arts Center - Saturday, February 28th, 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Alex Theatre – Saturday, March 21st, 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Royce Hall, UCLA – Saturday, March 28th, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 29th, 2:00 p.m.

Mixed Bill Program

Venue: Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center - Saturday, May 16th, 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Alex Theatre – Saturday, May 30th, 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Royce Hall, UCLA – Saturday, June 6th, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$31.00 - \$99.00, students, children and seniors 20% discount

Early Purchase Subscriptions on sale June 10, 2014.

Single Tickets and Regularly-Priced Subscriptions on sale July 1, 2014.

Box Office Phone: [310-998-7782](tel:310-998-7782); Website <http://www.losangelesballet.org>