

 **PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET**  
PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 3, 2024

To download Swan Lake b-roll, [click here](#).

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Pacific Northwest Ballet Continues its 2023-24 Season  
with the return of

KENT STOWELL'S  
*Swan Lake*

Made Possible by the E.L. Wiegand Foundation

10 Performances Only!

February 2 – 11, 2024

February 2, 8 and 9 at 7:30 PM  
February 3 and 10 at 1:00 and 7:30 PM  
February 4 at 1:00 and 7:00 PM  
February 11 at 1:00 PM

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall  
321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center  
Seattle, WA 98109

SEATTLE, WA – Pacific Northwest Ballet continues its 2023-24 season with Kent Stowell's *Swan Lake*. Every element of this production was crafted to keep audiences on the edge of their seats, from the masterful choreography, stunning costumes by Paul Tazewell, and off-kilter scenic design by Ming Cho Lee, to the undeniably iconic score brought to life by the world-famous PNB Orchestra. Considered by many to be the greatest classical ballet of all time, *Swan Lake* provides the ultimate challenge for dancers: the dual role of Odette, trapped in the body of a white swan until an oath of true love sets her free; and Odile, the “Black Swan” temptress. *Swan Lake* runs for 10 performances, February 2 through 11. Tickets start at just \$38. (*Swan Lake* will also stream digitally from February 15 through 19: Digital access is available by subscription only.) For tickets and additional information, contact the Pacific Northwest Ballet Box Office at 206.441.2424, online 24/7 at PNB.org, or in person at 301 Mercer Street.

## TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets to PNB's performances are available through the PNB Box Office:

- Phone - 206.441.2424
- In Person - 301 Mercer Street at Seattle Center
- Online (24/7) - PNB.org

Subject to availability, tickets are also available 90 minutes prior to each performance at McCaw Hall. Advance tickets through the PNB Box Office are strongly suggested for best prices and greatest availability.)

Tickets for the live performances of *Swan Lake* are \$38 - \$210. Groups of ten or more may enjoy discounts up to 20% off regular prices: Contact Group Sales Manager Julie Jamieson at 206.441.2416 or JulieJ@PNB.org for ticketing assistance. (Group discounts are not valid on lowest-priced tickets and may not be combined with other offers.) PNB's digital-only presentation of *Swan Lake* (February 15 - 19) is available by subscription only (\$160 for remainder of the 23-24 season).

For additional information about special ticket offers including The Pointe, Beer & Ballet night, Pay-What-You-Can, TeenTix, senior/student rush tickets and more, visit PNB.org/offers.

**Caveat Emptor:** Like many performing arts, PNB struggles with [ticket resellers](#). At their most mundane, third-party sites buy up less expensive tickets and sell them for a profit. At their most dastardly, they sometimes sell invalid tickets at inflated prices. To enjoy the ballet at the best prices available, always purchase tickets directly from PNB. Suspected ticket scams should be reported to the Better Business Bureau.

**Health & Safety:** At this time, masks are encouraged but not required as part of the PNB audience experience. For details and current information regarding PNB's health and safety policies, visit PNB.org/Health. For info on McCaw Hall accessibility, visit PNB.org/Accessibility.

**The show must go on:** Pacific Northwest Ballet is committed to honoring its performance calendar. Performances will not be cancelled for sleet, snow, or Seattle traffic. In the unlikely event that the status of a performance does change, an announcement will be posted on PNB.org.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### PNB CONVERSATIONS & DRESS REHEARSAL

Thursday, February 1, 5:30 pm

*Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall*

Join PNB Associate Artistic Director Kiyon Ross, in conversation with a panel of Prince Siegfrieds (casting TBA). PNB Conversations offer in-depth interviews with artists involved in putting our repertory on stage. Attend the Conversations event only or stay for the dress rehearsal of *Swan Lake*. Tickets (suggested donation of \$25) are available through the PNB Box Office.

### BALLET TALK

*Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall*

Join dance historian Doug Fullington for a 30-minute introduction to each performance, including discussions of choreography, music, history, design, and the process of bringing ballet to the stage. One hour before performances. FREE for ticketholders. (There will be no Meet the Artist post-show Q&As for the run of *Swan Lake*.)

## ABOUT THE BALLET

### *Swan Lake*

**Music:** [Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky](#) (Op. 20, 1875 – 1876)

**Choreography:** [Kent Stowell](#)

**Staging:** [Francia Russell](#) (after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov)

**Scenic Design:** Ming Cho Lee

**Costume Design:** Paul Tazewell

**Lighting Design:** Randall G. Chiarelli

**Original Production Premiere:** February 20, 1877, Imperial Ballet, Moscow, choreography by Julius Reisinger; restaged January 15, 1895, Imperial Ballet, St. Petersburg, choreography by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov

**Stowell/Russell Production Premiere:** October 1, 1976, Frankfurt Ballet

**Pacific Northwest Ballet Premiere:** April 8, 1981; new production September 25, 2003

**Running Time, Live:** Three hours, including two intermissions

**Running Time, Digital:** Approximately two hours and ten minutes

*Swan Lake* is considered by many to be the greatest classical ballet of all time. With its fantastical plot filled with romance, sorcery, and betrayal, *Swan Lake* offers dancers the ultimate challenge of a dual role: Odette, trapped in the body of a swan while awaiting an oath of true love to set her free; and Odile, the temptress daughter of Baron von Rothbart, who plots the downfall of Odette's true love, Siegfried. Pacific Northwest Ballet's 1981 production was a significant milestone as the first full-length ballet re-created for the Company. The current production of Kent Stowell's *Swan Lake*, in a revised staging and featuring new designs, premiered in 2003 to open PNB's inaugural season in Marion Oliver McCaw Hall.

*Swan Lake* has inspired countless choreographers, who, in their own productions, seek to extend the ideas and meanings suggested in the work of its creators: composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky and choreographers Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov. Tchaikovsky composed his score for Moscow's Bolshoi Ballet in 1877, but it was not until Petipa and Ivanov's St. Petersburg production of 1895 that *Swan Lake* took the form we know today.

The original 1877 Moscow production, now generally regarded as a failure, actually achieved mild success and saw more performances over more years than most ballets premiered on the Moscow stage. Tchaikovsky longed for a successful revival of his first ballet, but died in 1893, and a memorial concert in St. Petersburg the next year included a revival of *Swan Lake* Act II, the first lakeside scene, with new choreography by Lev Ivanov, ballet master Marius Petipa's assistant. The performance was a success and plans were laid for a revival of the entire ballet in 1895. Ivanov choreographed Act IV, the second lakeside scene, and Petipa supplied dances for Acts I and III. Although Petipa succeeded with his choreographic contribution, Ivanov's lakeside acts provided the images by which *Swan Lake* has become iconic.

The 1895 revival of *Swan Lake* has served as the basis for nearly every production since then. The dual role of Odette/Odile remains a coveted challenge for dancers and is broad enough in concept to sustain an endless variety of interpretations. Following tradition, choreographers often have revisited *Swan Lake*, for the ballet lends itself generously to new stagings and new interpretations. Pacific Northwest Ballet's *Swan Lake* dates from 1981, when Mr. Stowell and Ms. Russell mounted here the production they had first created for the Frankfurt Ballet in 1975. Preserving the best of the St. Petersburg original as it has come down to us through England's Royal Ballet, Ms. Russell researched and staged what has long been regarded as the soul of *Swan Lake*—nearly all of Ivanov's Act II, where music and dance are sublimely fused. Petipa's

Act I pas de trois and Act III Black Swan pas de deux were also retained. To enhance the story line, and following in the path of many choreographers, Mr. Stowell made important changes in the order of the musical numbers. He also re-choreographed most of Act I, the national dances in Act III, and all of Act IV, rescuing the usually forgotten last act with a radiant pas de deux and giving the conclusion dramatic power and unity. [Excerpted from notes by Doug Fullington. [Click here](#) for complete program notes.]

## **FUN FACTOIDS: FEATHERS FOR THE FLOCK**

*Swan Lake* is the quintessential classical ballet, and producing this staggering production is no small feat. All of its elaborate costumes, including headpieces, bodices, tutus, and accessories, were made by the acclaimed PNB Costume Shop. One tutu can take up to 200 hours of labor and costs thousands of dollars, but once constructed, it will be used for hundreds of performances and fit many dancers with multiple sets of hook-and-eye closures. PNB's current *Swan Lake* costumes were designed in 2003 by Paul Tazewell (*Hamilton*) and have been meticulously maintained and repaired as necessary in the years since. (*The Seattle Times* called the iconic tutus "as complex, and as beautiful, as a swan's wing.")

For the 2022 run of *Swan Lake*, the PNB Costume Shop refurbished the production's tacked tutus (so named because all the layers of tulle are tacked together by hand) and created 42 new bodices for the PNB Company dancers and Professional Division students (from the PNB School) dancing in the large corps of swans. (There are 24 swans on stage during a performance, but multiple costumes are created to fit multiple dancers.) The costume shop put in 1,900 hours producing the bodices, including 84 hours spent hand-sewing buttons and closures, and over 300 hours hand-painting feathery detail work. The project also entailed over 60 hours of fittings. The cost of rebuilding and refurbishing PNB's swans and additional *Swan Lake* costumes in 2022 came to approximately \$100,000; PNB plans to see these iconic costumes on stage for many more years to come.

# # #

Kent Stowell's *Swan Lake* was made possible by the E.L. Wiegand Foundation. PNB's 2024 performances of Kent Stowell's *Swan Lake* are supported by Sally Maimoni.

Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2023-2024 season is proudly sponsored by ArtsFund, Microsoft, and The Shubert Foundation. PNB's digital season is made possible by Katherine Graubard and William Calvin. PNB media sponsorship provided by *The Seattle Times*.

### **Publicity Contact**

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○ 206.441.2426 / M/T 206.328.TUCK (8825) / GTucker@PNB.org / PNB.org/press

*Everything is subject to change. For further information, please visit PNB.org.*

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