

The full schedule of performances along with ticketing information can be found below.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

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### **Portland Ballet announces its 2011-2012 season**

PORTLAND, Maine. — The Portland Ballet Company announces its 2011-2012 season schedule, opening on Saturday, October 15, 2011 and closing in April 2012. Tickets to all performances will be available through PortTix, porttix.com or 207-842-0800.

The season opens with two performances of Washington Irving's classic tale, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, on October 15. Featuring original choreography by Portland Ballet Company's resident choreographer Nell Shipman and commissioned music by Kirt Mosier, this piece premiered in Portland Ballet's 2010 season. A live orchestra, conducted by Robert Lehmann, accompanies the performances of this classic ballet. Performances will be at the Westbrook Performing Arts Center, just minutes from downtown Portland with plenty of free on-site parking.

The Ballet presents its annual holiday extravaganza, the *Victorian Nutcracker*, with the Portland Ballet Orchestra and the Victorian Festival Singers, just in time for Christmas. Two performances will be held on December 23 at Merrill Auditorium. This magnificent version of the classic Nutcracker is known for its beautiful dances, music, costumes and scenery as well as the local Portland connection to Portland's Victorian era families and landmarks. The *Victorian Nutcracker* features Portland Ballet Company's professional dancers as well as Portland School of Ballet students selected by audition.

The spring performance is the classic ballet *Giselle*, a story of love, betrayal, madness, revenge, and forgiveness that is the most famous and enduring of all romantic ballets

The dancers will tell the story of the peasant girl Giselle who must, after her premature death, protect her lover from *wilis*, the enchanting but deadly spirits of scorned maidens. PBC will present *Giselle* in three performances in Westbrook and one performance in Saint John, New Brunswick during March.

The Portland School of Ballet is also planning a spring show as part of the School's ongoing programs connecting youth in the community with dance and ballet.

For more information, please contact Portland Ballet at 207-772-9671 or visit [www.portlandballet.org](http://www.portlandballet.org).

**About Portland Ballet:**

Portland Ballet was founded in 1980 with a mission to enrich the community through classical ballet training, education, outreach, and performance. This small professional company performs throughout the year in southern Maine, presenting full-length classics as well as highly regarded contemporary choreography under the direction of Artistic Director Eugenia L. O'Brien. For more information about Portland Ballet, its school and programs, visit [www.portlandballet.org](http://www.portlandballet.org) or call 207-772-9671.

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**Schedule of Performances for 2011-2012**

Tickets: PortTix, 207-842-0800 or [www.porttix.com](http://www.porttix.com), or in person Monday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. at the Myrtle St. box office in Portland.

**The Legend of Sleepy Hollow**

Saturday, October 15, 2011, 2:00 P.M.  
Saturday, October 15, 2011, 8:00 P.M.  
Westbrook Performing Arts Center  
471 Stroudwater Street, Westbrook

**The Victorian Nutcracker**

Friday, December 23, 2011, 2:00 P.M.  
Friday, December 23, 2011, 7:30 P.M.  
Merrill Auditorium  
20 Myrtle Street, Portland

**Giselle**

Saturday, March 17, 2012, 8:00 P.M.  
Saturday, March 24, 2012, 2:00 P.M.  
Saturday, March 24, 2012, 8:00 P.M.  
Westbrook Performing Arts Center  
471 Stroudwater Street, Westbrook

Saturday, March 31, 2012, 8:00 P.M.  
Imperial Theatre  
24 Kings Square, St. John, New Brunswick, Canada  
Tickets: [www.imperialtheatre.nb.ca](http://www.imperialtheatre.nb.ca)