

# PORTLAND BALLET

NELL SHIPMAN ♦ ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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## PORTLAND BALLET ANNOUNCES 2018-2019 SEASON

The 39th season will include the return of the Halloween-favorite, Jack the Ripper, choreographed by Nell Shipman; a Maine holiday tradition, the Victorian Nutcracker, set in Victorian era Portland with sets and costumes inspired by the Victoria Mansion; Gallery: Dancers Take Over, where three dancers of Portland Ballet will choreograph world-premieres on their colleagues; and Classical Tribute, in which spectacular selections from world-renowned ballets will be presented.

**July 2, 2018** (PORTLAND, ME) — Artistic Director Nell Shipman proudly announces the programming for Portland Ballet's 2018-2019 season.

The season will open **October 19-20** with the revival of Nell Shipman's Jack the Ripper. The ballet was previously performed in 2013 and 2014 in front of sold-out crowds. Shipman will add approximately 30 minutes of choreography to her original work, making Jack the Ripper a full-length production. The spooky story of the serial killer who haunted the streets of London in the 19th century aligns with the weeks leading up to Halloween.

The Victorian Nutcracker will return to Merrill Auditorium **December 7** and to Westbrook Performing Arts Center **December 21-23**, just in time for Christmas. This annual production has become a Maine holiday tradition and family favorite. Over 80 children from the greater Portland community will join the company dancers onstage.

Gallery: Dancers Take Over will be presented **March 1-9** in the Portland Ballet Studio Theater. Three of the company's dancers will choreograph world-premieres. This production is an opportunity for emerging choreographers to showcase their talents, while giving Portland audiences the opportunity to see more contemporary works.

The season concludes **April 26-27** with **Classical Tribute**, featuring highlights from some of the most famous classical ballets. The production will offer selections from Napoli, a vibrant ballet depicting Neapolitan street life, choreographed by Danish ballet master August Bournonville; the famous love story Romeo and Juliet; and Don Quixote, a ballet based on Miguel de Cervantes' classic novel, full of Spanish flavor and flair.

Tickets for the Victorian Nutcracker will go on sale in July. Tickets for the remainder of the 2018-2019 season will go on sale August 1. Patrons buying tickets to Jack the Ripper, Gallery: Dancers Take Over, and Classical Tribute simultaneously will benefit from a 10% discount until September 30. For more information, please visit [www.portlandballet.org](http://www.portlandballet.org) or call 207.772.9671.

### **Jack the Ripper**

**October 19 at 7.30pm - Westbrook Performing Arts Center**

**October 20 at 2.00pm - Westbrook Performing Arts Center**

Choreography by Nell Shipman

### **The Victorian Nutcracker**

**December 7 at 7.30pm - Merrill Auditorium**

**December 21 at 7.30pm - Westbrook Performing Arts Center**

**December 22 at 2.00pm & 7.30pm - Westbrook Performing Arts Center**

**October 23 at 2.00pm - Westbrook Performing Arts Center**

Choreography by Nell Shipman, Kaitlyn Hayes, and Russell Hewey

### **Gallery: Dancers Take Over**

**March 1 at 7.30pm — Portland Ballet Studio Theater**

**March 2 at 2.00pm — Portland Ballet Studio Theater**

**March 8 at 7.30pm — Portland Ballet Studio Theater**

**March 9 at 2.00pm — Portland Ballet Studio Theater**

Choreography TBD

### **Classical Tribute**

**April 26 at 7.30pm - Westbrook Performing Arts Center**

**April 27 at 2.00pm - Westbrook Performing Arts Center**

Selections from:

**Napoli**

Choreography by August Bournonville

Romeo and Juliet

Restaged by Nell Shipman

Don Quixote

Choreography by Marius Petipa

Founded in 1980, Portland Ballet is Maine's only professional ballet company. Under the leadership of Nell Shipman, the company has maintained a diverse repertoire of classical ballets, while adding a variety neo-classical and contemporary works and introducing world-premieres.

The affiliated Portland School of Ballet (PSB) has been the premier dance education center of southern Maine for over three decades. Professional and inclusive, the School is dedicated to bringing dance to people of all ages and skill levels, while at the same time maintaining its focus on training young men and women for professional careers.

For more information, please visit [www.portlandballet.org](http://www.portlandballet.org).