

PORTLAND BALLET

NELL SHIPMAN ♦ ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR PORTLAND BALLET'S FINAL PERFORMANCE OF THE 2018-2019 SEASON

Portland Ballet's Classical Tribute will feature 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.

April 11, 2019 (PORTLAND, ME) — Artistic Director Nell Shipman is excited to announce the casting for 'Classical Tribute', which will be performed **April 26-27** at the Westbrook Performing Arts Center.

The Don Quixote pas de deux will be danced by Kelsey Harrison and J. Luke Tucker, who have previously partnered together as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier in the *Victorian Nutcracker*. This pas de deux is one of the most well-known pieces in ballet repertoire, full of exciting jumps, turns, and lifts. Kaitlyn Hayes and Milena Hartog have been cast as the two bridesmaids, and Toni Martin will dance the role of Cupid.

Long-time Portland Ballet dancer Jennifer Jones will dance opposite Russell Hewey in Romeo & Juliet. Shipman has choreographed a brand-new version of the famous balcony pas de deux for this production. Erica Diesl and Eliana Trenam will perform as Juliet's friends, and members of Portland Ballet's pre-professional CORPS-program will join the professional dancers onstage as members of the court.

The entire company, along with children from the affiliated Portland School of Ballet, will dance Act 3 of **Napoli**, a Danish ballet choreographed by August Bournonville. Shipman: “We are excited to bring a relatively unknown piece to the Portland community and share with them the vibrancy and sheer joy that this ballet brings, both to those performing and those witnessing from the audience”. Diesl and Hewey have been cast as the two main characters in the ballet, Teresina and Gennaro.

For more information, please call 207.772.9671. Tickets can be purchased at the theater one hour prior to the start of the performance, and are available online at portlandballet.org/tickets.

Classical Tribute

April 26 at 7:30pm — Westbrook Performing Arts Center

April 27 at 2:00pm — Westbrook Performing Arts Center

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), founded in 1980, is the top classical ballet training school in Maine. Professional and inclusive, the School is dedicated to bringing dance to people of all ages and skill levels, while maintaining its focus on training young men and women for professional careers.

For more information, please visit www.portlandballet.org.