



MEDIA CONTACT:

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**PORTLAND BALLET COLLABORATING WITH NEWLY-FORMED DIRIGO ENSEMBLE
FOR 'GALLERY: COMPOSING CHOREOGRAPHY'**

The annual production of 'Gallery' is Portland Ballet's creative presentation of dance, where contemporary world-premieres are created for Maine audiences. This year's show will feature live music by the Dirigo Ensemble, a local not-for-profit a cappella group. Former Cirque du Soleil Artistic Director Adam Miller is choreographing, alongside long-time Portland Ballet dancer and ballet master Jennifer Jones and Artistic Director Nell Shipman. GALLERY: Composing Choreography will be presented February 28-March 7 in the Portland Ballet Studio Theater, and marks the first production in Portland Ballet's 40th anniversary year.

February 10, 2020 (PORTLAND, ME) — Artistic Director Nell Shipman is excited to present three world-premieres of contemporary dance later this month at the Portland Ballet Studio Theater.

Guest Adam Miller is a renowned choreographer from Providence, Rhode Island. He was a principal dancer with Pacific Northwest Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and Hartford Ballet, and performed as a guest artist in the USA, Europe, Asia and South America. From 2008-2012, Miller toured the world as the Artistic Director of the Cirque Du Soleil shows *Kooza* and *Saltimbanco*, and he is the founder and current Artistic Director of the Provincetown Dance Festival, now in its fifteenth season. Miller's new work for Portland Ballet is set to well-known tunes, such as *Shenandoah* and George Gershwin's *I Got Rhythm*.

Jennifer Jones, a member of the company since 2010, who will retire from dancing at the end of this season, will present her work *Sonder*. Jones previously choreographed *Voices* on Portland Ballet, for the 2019 rendition of 'Gallery'.

Rounding out the evening will be Shipman's *Fish and Trees*, of which she notes, "the past few seasons, most of my work has been dedicated to telling well-known tales. I am excited for this opportunity to create a piece, purely inspired by my own story."

The Dirigo Ensemble will accompany the three works. The organization is comprised of twelve singers and specializes in (a cappella) vocal music from all eras. The ensemble's motto is 'At The Roots of the Human Voice'.

Tickets for 'GALLERY: Composing Choreography' are now available at www.portlandballet.org/. Discounted tickets are available for children, students, and seniors. For more information, please visit www.portlandballet.org or call 207.772.9671.

Gallery: Dancers Take Over

February 28 at 7:30pm — Portland Ballet Studio Theater

February 29 at 2:00pm — Portland Ballet Studio Theater

March 6 at 7:30pm — Portland Ballet Studio Theater

March 7 at 2:00pm — Portland Ballet Studio Theater

Sonder

Choreography — Jennifer Jones

Music — *Tha Thin Tha* (Lisa Young, Ben Robertson); *Triptyque Nordique I-III* (François Quimet); *To Morning* (Gabriel Jackson); *Where The Seasons Take Us, Tha Thin Tha Reprise* (Roger Ames)

Bound Away

Choreography — Adam Miller

Music — *Shenandoah* (American Traditional, Thomas Hewitt Jones, arr.); *We Are* (Bob Chilcott); *I Got Rhythm* (George Gershwin); *Desh* (Indian Raga, Ethan Sperry, arr.)

Fish and Trees

Choreography — Nell Shipman

Music — *Stars* (Ēriks Ešvalds); *Daemon Irrepit Callidus* (György Orbán); *Only in Sleep* (Ēriks Ešvalds); *Hlohonolofatsa, Indondana* (Michael Barrett and Ralf Schmitt, arr.)

Portland Ballet is Maine's professional ballet company and home to the leading classical training in the state. Celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2020, the company blends traditions with innovative new works, maintaining a diverse repertoire of classical ballets while adding a variety neo-classical and contemporary world-premieres. The affiliated Portland School of Ballet 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.