

PORTLAND BALLET

NELL SHIPMAN ♦ ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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PORTLAND BALLET ANNOUNCES LINE-UP FOR 'GALLERY: DANCERS TAKE OVER'

Portland Ballet's annual production of 'Gallery' gives emerging choreographers the opportunity to showcase their talents, while giving Portland audiences the opportunity to see more contemporary works. This year, four of Portland Ballet's own will present new creations.

Gallery: Dancers Take Over will be presented March 1-9 in the Portland Ballet Studio Theater.

January 17, 2019 (PORTLAND, ME) — Artistic Director Nell Shipman is proud to announce the choreographers for 'Gallery: Dancers Take Over': Jennifer Jones, Russell Hewey, Kaitlyn Hayes, and Eliana Trenam.

Kaitlyn Hayes' choreography will explore the desire and need for people to find control in their life, and how people deal with something not going the way they intended it to play out. Hayes' work Unpredictability of Life will be set to various tango compositions by Astor Piazzolla.

Russell Hewey returned back to Maine in 2017, after dancing with the Teatrul de Balet Sibiu in Romania. In 2018, he choreographed 'La Danse: Matisse, Delaunay, and Degas' for Portland Ballet. Hewey describes his new work, Eve of Monday, as "*a glance of a light in time*".

Jennifer Jones has been a member of Portland Ballet since 2010; This will be her first time choreographing on the company. Ms. Jones noted about her work, Voices: "*I am fascinated by the human voice — its versatility, individuality, and connection to culture and heritage. A dancer's true voice is his or her body, and the unique way in which each body moves is our language. This piece is an ode to both*".

Eliana Trenam describes her work **Hearth** as "*a glimpse through someone's window at mid-winter – an intimate look at the pain of solitude, the comforts of companionship, the frustrations of living in a flawed society, and how we ultimately get by with the help of loved ones and music*". 'Hearth' will be set to traditional Welsh songs and hymns.

Tickets for 'Gallery: Dancers Take Over' are now available at www.portlandballet.org/tickets. For more information, please visit www.portlandballet.org or call 207.772.9671.

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

Unpredictability of Life

Choreography — Kaitlyn Hayes

Music — *Five Tango Sensations: Asleep - Dreaming*, *Five Tango Sensations: Fear, Libertango* (Astor Piazzolla)

Eve of Monday

Choreography — Russell Hewey

Music — *Hymn of the Cherubim* (P. I. Tchaikovsky); *Gretchen am Spinnrade, Op. 2* (Franz Schubert); *Après un Reve* (Gabriel Faure); *Crucifixus* (Antonio Lotti)

Voices

Choreography — Jennifer Jones

Music — *Kyrie Fons Bonitatis* (The Gregorian Chant Choir of Ismael Fren); *Korvai in Khanda Gathi* (BC Manjunath); *Overture to The Barber of Seville* (Gioachino Rossini); *An Innis Aigh* (Angus MacLelland)

Hearth

Choreography — Eliana Trenam

Music — *Household Music, Three Preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes* (Ralph Vaughan Williams); *Si Hwi Hwi* (Ionoron Glan Dwyryd); *Dacw 'Nghariad I Lawr Yn Y Berllan*

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.