

PORTLAND BALLET

NELL SHIPMAN ♦ ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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PORTLAND BALLET PRESENTS

‘MOMENTUM: 3 DANCES FOR MOVING FORWARD’

All-New Production Celebrates Return to Theater, May 15-16 at Westbrook Performing Arts Center

April 12, 2021 (PORTLAND, ME) — Portland Ballet will present *MOMENTUM: 3 Dances for Moving Forward*, May 15-16 at the Westbrook Performing Arts Center. Tickets go on sale Monday, April 12.

The program features two brand-new contemporary choreographies by Artistic Director Nell Shipman and a new work by Ballet Mistress Jennifer Jones. **MOMENTUM** will mark Portland Ballet’s first mainstage production back in front of a live audience since the start of the pandemic last March. The company presented a shorter performance, *Four Seasons*, in early April and outdoors in September 2020. Their *Victorian Nutcracker* was broadcast on News Center MAINE in December.

“We are really excited to be able to focus on live performance, while still ensuring the safety of our company and community“ said Shipman. Dancers have been rehearsing under health and safety protocols, which were structured in partnership with a healthcare specialist providing expert occupational health advisement to area hospitals, businesses, healthcare workers, and the community during the pandemic.

Shipman's opening piece, ***First Principles of Hope and Enjoyment***, is a light and joyful work for five dancers. Ballet Mistress Jennifer Jones, who retired from the stage last year after a tenure of ten years with Portland Ballet, will present ***A Young Woman Sits in Quiet Reflection***. Jones previously created *Voices* and *Sonder* for the company's annual production of Gallery, in 2019 and 2020 respectively. The production will wrap up with ***Impetus***, a full-company finale piece choreographed by Shipman.

Tickets for ***MOMENTUM: 3 Dances for Moving Forward*** are now available at www.portlandballet.org. Prices start at \$15. Due to continued health and safety measures, seating will be socially distant and masks will be required at all times. Families will be able to sit together. For more information, please visit www.portlandballet.org or call 207.772.9671.

MOMENTUM: 3 Dances for Moving Forward

May 15 at 7:30pm – Westbrook Performing Arts Center

May 16 at 2:00pm – Westbrook Performing Arts Center

First Principles of Hope and Enjoyment

Choreography – Nell Shipman

Dancers – Kelsey Harrison, Milena Hartog, Toni Marie Martin, Daniel Rudenberg, Eliana Trenam

A Young Woman Sits in Quiet Reflection

Choreography – Jennifer Jones

Dancers – Heather Baxter, Erica Diesl, Grace Koury, Kaitlyn Hayes

Impetus

Choreography – Nell Shipman

Dancers – Full Company

Portland Ballet is Maine's professional ballet company and home to the leading classical training in the state. Founded in 1980, the company has a mission to enrich the community through ballet education and performance. Portland Ballet's repertoire includes both classical productions and innovative new works. 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 careers in dance. For more information, please visit www.portlandballet.org.