

PORTLAND BALLET

NELL SHIPMAN ♦ ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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PORTLAND BALLET ANNOUNCES 2019/2020 SEASON

The season includes a restaging of Tales by Poe, the well-loved Maine tradition A Victorian Nutcracker, new works in Gallery: Composing Choreography, and the return of Midsummer Night's Dream. In 2020, Portland Ballet will be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

May 28, 2019 (PORTLAND, ME) — Portland Ballet Artistic Director Nell Shipman announces programming for the 2019/2020 season. Founded in 1980, the year 2020 will mark the company's 40th year in existence. The season opens with *Tales by Poe*, a restaging of Shipman's haunting, original work. Maine-favorite *A Victorian Nutcracker* will return to enchant audiences with spectacular dancing and beloved characters. March will bring the fifth installment of *Gallery*, a now annual contemporary program in the Portland Ballet Studio Theater. The season will close with another returning favorite, Shipman's *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

"Our upcoming season will captivate audiences with new works and make them fall in love again with old favorites. *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Tales by Poe*—the bookends of the season—will be re-envisioned in exciting ways, while *A Victorian Nutcracker* and *Gallery* will stay true to our history and remind audiences why we are such an important part of the arts community", said Artistic Director Nell Shipman.

Portland Ballet opens its season on a haunting note with Tales by Poe, inspired by the short stories of Edgar Allan Poe. Previously created for the company in 2015, the production will be revived at the Westbrook Performing Arts Center on **October 18-19**.

Family-favorite A Victorian Nutcracker returns to the stage **December 17** at Merrill Auditorium and **December 21-22** at the Westbrook Performing Arts Center. This annual production is a cherished holiday tradition for Maine audiences, with its timeless tale of a young girl, her Nutcracker Prince, and the Mouse King, and sets and characters inspired by Portland's Victoria Mansion.

Kicking off Portland Ballet's 40th anniversary year will be **Gallery: Composing Choreography**, presented **February 28-March 7, 2020** at the Portland Ballet Studio Theater. This creative presentation of dance will feature new, contemporary works choreographed by members of the company.

The 2019/2020 season concludes **April 24-25, 2020** at the Westbrook Performing Arts Center with Shipman's **Midsummer Night's Dream**. Portland Ballet's take on William Shakespeare's romantic comedy was a previous audience favorite and will delight patrons of all ages.

Early Bird Tickets for all shows will go on sale in June. For more information, please visit www.portlandballet.org or call 207.772.9671.

Tales by Poe

October 18 at 7.30pm - Westbrook Performing Arts Center
October 19 at 7.30pm - Westbrook Performing Arts Center
Choreography by Nell Shipman

The Victorian Nutcracker

December 17 at 7.30pm - Merrill Auditorium
December 21 at 2.00pm & 7.30pm - Westbrook Performing Arts Center
December 22 at 2.00pm - Westbrook Performing Arts Center
Choreography by Nell Shipman, Kaitlyn Hayes, and Russell Hewey

Gallery: Composing Choreography

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
Choreography TBD

Midsummer Night's Dream

April 24 at 7.30pm - Westbrook Performing Arts Center
April 25 at 2.00pm - Westbrook Performing Arts Center
Choreography by Nell Shipman

Founded in 1980, Portland Ballet is Maine's professional ballet company and leading training in the state. Blending classical traditions with innovative new works, the company has a mission to to enrich the community through dance education and performance.

The affiliated Portland School of Ballet (PSB) has been the premier dance education center of southern Maine for almost four 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.