

LOS ANGELES BALLET

SEASON⁵

2010 / 2011

Thordal Christensen & Colleen Neary
Artistic Directors

LOS ANGELES BALLET ANNOUNCES 2010-2011 SEASON

CELEBRATE LANDMARK FIFTH SEASON!

(Los Angeles, CA) Los Angeles Ballet Artistic Directors Thordal Christensen and Colleen Neary are pleased to announce the company's fifth season as Los Angeles' own professional ballet company. This season the company will dazzle viewers with *The Nutcracker*, Balanchine masterworks, a *World Premiere*, and the beloved romantic ballet *Giselle*.

Back to thrill audiences during the holidays and begin the fifth season, LAB will perform its Neary-Christensen choreographed production of *The Nutcracker*, the city's most enduring holiday tradition.

Celebration comes to Los Angeles in March, featuring Balanchine's luscious *Raymonda Variations* and riotous *Western Symphony*, plus another *World Premiere* created specifically for LAB dancers by the returning Sonya Tayeh. In May, the 2010-2011 landmark season culminates with the timeless, full-length romantic *Giselle*, with choreography by Artistic Director Thordal Christensen, (after Coralli, Perrot and Petipa). The *Season 5 Gala Celebration* will take place on Saturday May 28th, 2011, at the Broad Stage in Santa Monica, after a performance of *Giselle*.

Additionally, Los Angeles Ballet continues its commitment to the workshop process, to the identification and nurture of emerging choreographers, composers and designers. LAB's Choreographic Workshop will take place May 24, 2011.

The Company continues to build a repertoire that underscores the creative leadership of its artistic directors, presenting timeless classics as well as innovative choreography from today's contemporary artists.

Season tickets are now available. Reserve now by calling **310.998.7782** or by visiting www.losangelesballet.org

About 2010-2011 Performances

The Nutcracker – December 2010

Los Angeles Ballet inaugurates its fifth season with the holiday favorite, *The Nutcracker* with Tchaikovsky's illustrious score. Featuring sets with a Los Angeles flair by LA designer Catherine Kanner and costumes originally designed by Mikael Melbye, *The Nutcracker* debuted in LAB's first season as an original production.

Celebration – March 2011

Raymonda Variations was inspired by George Balanchine's admiration of Glazounov's music. He loved what he called its "grand and generous manner, its joy and playfulness." LAB proudly presents its next commissioned *World Premiere*, created by one of the country's most beloved choreographers, Sonya Tayeh. *Western Symphony*, also by Balanchine, is set on a rugged Old West street populated by cowboys and dance hall girls! Steps Balanchine uses from traditional

ballet vocabulary allude to the steps, formations, and gestures of American folk dancing. The lively, familiar score consists of classic American folk songs orchestrated and arranged by Hershy Kay.

(The performances of *Raymonda Variations* and *Western Symphony*, all Balanchine® Ballets, are presented by arrangement with The Balanchine Trust and have been produced in accordance with the Balanchine Style® and Balanchine Technique® service standards established and provided by the Trust.)

Giselle – May 2011

The timeless, beloved full-length romantic masterpiece, *Giselle*, tells the story of a young peasant girl who, betrayed by her lover Albrecht, dies of a broken heart. When Albrecht visits her grave at night, Giselle protects him from the Wilis, vengeful female spirits who haunt the forest.

About the Choreographers

Thordal Christensen is the co-Artistic Director for the Los Angeles Ballet. The world of dance claims Mr. Christensen as one of its most respected citizens. Mr. Christensen danced with the Royal Danish Ballet, New York City Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet in major roles in the classical and modern repertoire. He was appointed artistic director of the Royal Danish Ballet and the Royal Danish Ballet School in 1999. During his leadership he advanced the company repertoire and school to new levels. In 2002, Mr. Christensen was appointed Knight of Dannebrog by Her Majesty Margrethe II.

Colleen Neary is the co-Artistic Director for the Los Angeles Ballet. Ms. Neary danced as a soloist from 1969 to 1979 in The New York City Ballet under the direction of George Balanchine. She had numerous roles created for her by George Balanchine, Peter Martins, Jacques d'Amboise and others.

She was invited in 1979 to be Ballet Mistress and Choreographic Assistant for the Zurich Ballet. During this period she also staged Rudolf Nureyev's *Don Quixote* and *Manfred* for La Scala de Milan, Zurich Ballet and Vienna State Opera. In 1984 she was invited to be Principal Guest Artist and company teacher for Maurice Béjart's *Ballet du XXIème Siecle* where he created several roles for her. In 1986 she was invited to join Pacific Northwest Ballet as Principal Dancer. In 1992 she joined The Royal Danish Ballet as Ballet Mistress and company teacher. By 1999 she became First Ballet Mistress in charge of productions, a position she held until 2002.

Ms. Neary is a member of the George Balanchine Trust and has staged many of his ballets, including *Agon*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Theme and Variations*, *Rubies*, *Serenade*, *Tarantella*, *Stravinsky Violin Concerto*, *Divertimento no.15*, *Piano Concerto no. 2*, *Concerto Barocco*, *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*, and *Symphony in C*, for leading companies around the world.

About Los Angeles Ballet

Launched in 2006 by co-artistic directors Thordal Christensen and Colleen Neary, Los Angeles Ballet enjoyed a successful first season as the city's own professional ballet company focused on capturing the creative aesthetic unique to Southern California. Los Angeles Ballet is committed to bringing world class dance and great dancers to every corner of Southern California through performing at different venues accessible to communities across the city and presenting varied programs designed to appeal to a large and diverse base of fans who will grow to become devoted, supportive patrons. Recently, the company made a special appearance on the FOX network's hit show, *So You Think You Can Dance*, in which they performed an excerpt from Balanchine's *Who Cares?*, with a classical American score by Gershwin/Kay.

The Company, a not-for-profit arts organization, makes its professional home at the Los Angeles Ballet Dance Center in Los Angeles. Julie Whittaker is the Company's executive director.

2010/2011 SUBSCRIPTION SERIES*
Ticket Information: 310-998-7782;
<http://www.losangelesballet.org>

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**LOS ANGELES BALLET 2010-2011 SEASON AT A GLANCE
BY VENUE**

ALEX THEATRE, GLENDALE

216 North Brand Boulevard
Glendale, 91203

The Nutcracker

Saturday, December 4, 2010 @ 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 5, 2010 @ 2 pm

- Original production choreographed by Christensen and Neary

Celebration

Saturday, March 5, 2011 @ 7:30 pm

Giselle

Saturday, May 21, 2011 @ 7:30 pm

ROYCE HALL, UCLA

340 Royce Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90095

The Nutcracker

Saturday, December 18, 2010 @ 1 pm & 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 19, 2010 @ 1 pm & 5:00 pm

- Original production choreographed by Christensen and Neary

REDONDO BEACH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

1935 Manhattan Beach Boulevard
Redondo Beach, 90278

The Nutcracker

Saturday, December 24, 2010 @ 2 pm

Sunday, December 26, 2010 @ 1 pm & 5:00 pm

- Original production choreographed by Christensen and Neary

Celebration

Saturday, March 12, 2011 @ 7:30 pm

Giselle

Saturday, May 14, 2011 @ 7:30 pm

FREUD PLAYHOUSE, UCLA

MacGowan Hall, UCLA Campus
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Celebration

Saturday, March 19, 2011 @ 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 20, 2011 @ 2:00 pm

THE BROAD STAGE
1310 11th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Giselle

Saturday, May 28, 2011 @ 6:00 pm

Sunday, May 29, 2011 @ 1:00 pm & 5:00 pm

*Repertoire subject to change