



LOS ANGELES BALLET

LOS ANGELES BALLET PRESENTS FOUR WORLD PREMIERERS IN NEW WAVE LA MAY 15-30 AT VENUES ACROSS THE CITY

GUEST CHOREOGRAPHERS FROM THE HIT SHOW “SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE”

(Los Angeles, March 8, 2010) Los Angeles Ballet [LAB] Artistic Directors Thordal Christensen and Colleen Neary are thrilled to present New Wave LA which involves four contemporary World Premieres from guest choreographers Josie Walsh, and Sonya Tayeh, Mandy Moore and Travis Wall from the hit FOX show “So You Think You Can Dance.”

Each choreographer will present an innovative, modern, edgy and world class piece with Los Angeles Ballet dancers. New Wave LA is a ground-breaking program for LAB, commissioning four acclaimed choreographers to create on LAB dancers. This program follows Los Angeles Ballet’s mission of incorporating new creations specifically for LAB dancers throughout its season.

The four choreographers Josie Walsh, Sonya Tayeh, Mandy Moore and Travis Wall are all elated to be presenting FOUR world premieres in ONE evening which is rarely done in a ballet company. Los Angeles Ballet is also proud to present Transmutation, by LA’s own Josie Walsh, developed from a piece originally commissioned by the First Annual LAB Choreographic Workshop. Sonya Tayeh, Mandy Moore and Travis Wall’s World Premiere pieces are still untitled.

Josie Walsh is a native of Los Angeles and a former professional dancer with the Joffrey Ballet, Zurich Ballet and Oregon Ballet Theatre. Upon her return to Los Angeles, Walsh integrated her vast background into the commercial world. Walsh founded MYOKYO Renegade Rock Ballets in 2000. She is the director, producer and choreographer for the company, creating an eclectic style of inter-disciplinary cooperation.

Sonya Tayeh incorporates her deeply rooted form with the essence of contemporary technique, mixing her own ‘quirky’ style into her choreography. This stylized, free-flowing movement is aggressively formulated through one-on-one physical contact. She is currently a choreographer for “So You Think You Can Dance.”

Mandy Moore is an exciting, emerging choreographer and performer whose work has been seen on films and television shows such as “So You Think You Can Dance.” She was one of the choreographers for Celine Dion’s “Taking Chances” World Tour.

Travis Wall is a choreographer who choreographed for “So You Think You Can Dance” and was principal dancer for Wade Robson on ABC’s “Dancing with the Stars.”

These four outstanding choreographers will exercise their unique style and personality in the World Premieres of New Wave LA. The much-anticipated repertoire will take place at venues across Los Angeles from May 15 to May 30 (please see full performance schedule below).

For more information, please visit www.losangelesballet.org or call 310.998.7782.

****NEW WAVE LA PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE****

Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center

1935 Manhattan Beach Boulevard
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
Saturday, May 15, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.

Alex Theatre

216 North Brand Boulevard
Glendale, CA 91203
Saturday, May 22, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.

The Broad Stage

1310 11th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Saturday, May 29, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 30, 2010 @ 2:00 p.m.
**Performers subject to change

About the Artistic Directors

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 the Guest Choreographers

Sonya Tayeh is a choreographer who studied dance at Wayne State University. She received her BFA in dance studying dance history, anatomy, and performance. Immersing herself in this art, she graduated one year early. Sonya now teaches a self-titled class called Combat Jazz, which incorporates her deeply rooted form with the essence of contemporary technique mixed with her own 'quirky' style. This stylized, free-flowing movement is aggressively formulated through one on one physical contact. In this form of movement, the importance of core strength and body awareness is a constant. Sonya Tayeh now resides in Los Angeles where

she is faculty at the Edge Performing Arts School. She also travels the world teaching workshops, intensive master classes, and setting works. She has received much recognition and prestigious accolades at various choreography competitions and University Gala performances. Her work has gleamed through television screens on "So You Think You Can Dance" as a choreographer and judge. In addition, Sonya's inventive live shows were performed to sold-out crowds two years in a row.

Mandy Moore is an exciting, emerging choreographer and performer whose work has been seen on television, in film and on the concert stage. Mandy was one of the choreographers for Celine Dion's Taking Chances World Tour. In addition to being the choreographer for "American Idol" Season 6 and 7, Mandy was a guest choreographer on FOX's "So You Think You Can Dance" Season 3 and was a guest judge for the Season 4 auditions. As a performer, Mandy has appeared on numerous of television shows, including "That 70's Show" and "Malcolm in the Middle." Film credits include "A Time for Dancing" and "Austin Powers III." Mandy teaches in Los Angeles at Edge Performing Arts Center and travels both nationally and internationally to teach and choreograph for companies, private studios and independent performers.

Travis Wall is a choreographer who choreographed for Season 4-6 on FOX's "So You Think You Can Dance" and was principal dancer for Wade Robson on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars." His credits also include being assistant choreographer for AJ Mclean's "Teenage Wildlife" Music Video. Travis' film credits include being the assistant choreographer on "Going the Distance" and as the assistant choreographer to Chace Crawford in the "Footloose" sizzle reel. He has won several awards such as the Dancin Downtown at the Joyce as Choreographer of the Year 2009, the Capezio A.C.E Award as Choreographer of the Year 2009 and the NYCDA Critics Choice Award 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2009.

Josie Walsh is a native of Los Angeles and former professional dancer with the Joffrey Ballet, Zurich Ballet and Oregon Ballet Theatre. Her choreographic career began with the Zurich Opera and moved on to several freelance projects throughout Europe. Upon her return to Los Angeles she integrated this vast background into the commercial world. Choreographic credits include: "YAHOO" national commercial, CBS "The Cleaner", Walt Disney's feature of "Tinker Bell", MGM movie premiere Bullet Proof Monk, CBS sitcom "That's Life", Red Bull Formula One Industrial, Pilgrim Rock Opera, "Transmutation" Los Angeles Ballet and many, many more! Walsh founded MYOKYO Renegade Rock Ballets in 2000. She is the director, producer and choreographer for the company, creating an eclectic style of inter-disciplinary cooperation. Her company utilizes aerial ballets and acrobatics; circus and martial artistry, contemporary ballet, Hip Hop, live rock, and opera blends. MYOKYO™ dancers go from bare feet to pointe shoes to high flying aerial stunts in the rafters.

About Los Angeles Ballet

Los Angeles Ballet made its exciting debut in 2006 as the region's own professional ballet company focused on capturing the creative aesthetic unique to Southern California. The Company's first triumph was its original production of "The Nutcracker" followed by dynamic repertoires in Seasons I, II, and III, hailed by critics and audiences alike. With a professional ballet presence in Los Angeles, LAB continues to captivate a large, diverse audience and devoted, supportive patrons. With a home-based outlet for their passion, balletomanes in Los Angeles no longer have to rely on visiting companies to experience world class dance. Additionally, a new generation of dance enthusiasts regularly enjoy the company's dynamic dance productions. LAB was most recently featured in a special showcase on the hit FOX television show, "So You Think You Can Dance." Los Angeles Ballet is very active with outreach programs in the Los Angeles area and recently donated over \$9000 worth of tickets to one performance to charities working with inner city youth. The donation was made possible by the ballet's Power of Performance program (POP), which is designed to engage young people in the performing arts.

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