

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### Ballet Bellevue Presents the World Premiere of American Jazz Nutcracker

#### Music of Duke Ellington Offers a New Twist to This Favorite Holiday Classic

BELLEVUE, Wash. – Ballet Bellevue presents a new contemporary ballet/jazz fantasy for the 2001 December holiday season – American Jazz Nutcracker – featuring the music of jazz legend Duke Ellington and directed by Ballet Bellevue Artistic Director Ronn Tice and associate Dannul Dailey with choreography by Tice, Dailey, Chris Daigre of Ewajo Dance, Inc., and Dale Merrill of Spectrum Dance Theatre. Full of jazz, swing, ballet and theatre dance and featuring dancers from Ewajo, Spectrum, and Ballet Bellevue, this production will follow an original American storyline tailored to the elegant musical strains of American jazz icon Duke Ellington.

According to Tice, “American Jazz Nutcracker is an inspiring, uplifting tale of the inherent value of each person in a diverse America.”

American Jazz Nutcracker features an original montage of music written by Ellington in 1960, when he created his arrangement of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s popular Nutcracker Suite.

Performances run December 14-16 at The Theatre at Meydenbauer Center in downtown Bellevue, and December 21-22 at Seattle’s Moore Theater. For information and tickets call (425) 455-1345. Tickets are also available for the Meydenbauer Center performances through TicketWindow at (206) 325-6500 or at <http://www.ticketwindowonline.com>. Tickets for the Moore Theater are available through Ticketmaster at (206) 292-ARTS or at <http://www.ticketmaster.com> and can also be purchased in person at the Paramount Theatre Box Office at 9th and Pine, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ballet Bellevue is the Eastside’s own resident ballet company, now in its seventh season of bringing world-class performances to audiences in Bellevue, Seattle, Washington and beyond. Ballet Bellevue, located in downtown Bellevue, is proud to present contemporary ballet and 21st century dance that includes and celebrates our diverse community.

