

PRESS RELEASE

SMALL COMPANY WITH BIG SHOW OPENS EASTSIDE'S "MAGIC SEASON"

BELLEVUE (October 10, 2003) - Families will be thrilled to begin their holiday festivities this Thanksgiving weekend with Ballet Bellevue's beloved fairy tale, *The Sleeping Beauty*, November 28-30 at The Theatre at Meydenbauer Center including 5 performances: Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7 PM and Saturday and Sunday at 2 PM.

Artistic Director, Viktoria Titova, former dancer with Moscow's Bolshoi Ballet Grigorovich Company, puts the magic in Bellevue's "Magic Season" with her original staging of Tchaikovsky's seldom seen full-length ballet. Out of fairy dust and a cast and budget much smaller than the world-famous Royal Ballet of London production, the Eastside's own professional ballet company opens its 9th Season with an exquisite production of Titova's clear classical style. The renowned choreography of Petipa from 1890 is set on our region's most talented dancers against spectacular palace scenery courtesy of Tacoma City Ballet and a lovely dream-like forest by Northwest designer Bruce Jackson. The role of Princess Aurora will be shared by Viktoria Titova and the Eastside's own rising star, Lara Seefeldt. In a splendor of tutus, the hallmark of ballet's classical era, The Lilac Fairy (Natalie Dahlstrom) reigns over her land of fairies who represent all that is good and beautiful in the world. They eventually triumph over the evil side of things, personified by the wicked Carabosse. Young children will love Act III with its wedding entourage of storybook characters that Tchaikovsky added to the story, including Little Red Riding Hood, the Wolf, Puss in Boots and the White Cat. Featuring two of the Northwest's most promising young dancers, Bryon Brill and Ahnleza Vandermay, this is Ballet Bellevue's first time to present the difficult and rarely performed role of the Bluebird and his lady. Dance schools from Snohomish to Pierce County will be represented by students performing in the corps de ballet and children's roles. Sponsors for the production are Standing Ovation, the Cultural Development Authority of King County and Minuteman Press of Downtown Bellevue.

Evening performances are \$22 for adults and \$15 for students/seniors; matinees are \$17 for adults and \$10 for students/seniors. For tickets and information contact Ticketwindow at 206.325.6500 www.ticketwindowonline.com. Group discounts (for 10 or more) and school shows (December 1st 10:15 AM and 12:15 PM) are available through Ballet Bellevue at 425.455.1345 or www.balletbellevue.org.