

## PRESS RELEASE

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### BALLET BELLEVUE BRINGS GUEST PRIMA BALLERINA AND RUSSIAN "PRINCE" TO STAR IN *THE SLEEPING BEAUTY*

**Bellevue, WA.** - This Thanksgiving weekend, families will be thrilled to begin their "Magic Season" holiday festivities with Ballet Bellevue's magnificent production of Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty* starring guest Prima Ballerina, Ekaterina Shipulina at The Theatre at Meydenbauer Center November 28-30, 2003. Shipulina will dance the lead role of Princess Aurora with her "Prince," Victor Dik, Principal Dancer of Moscow's Stanislavsky Theatre. The excitement at Ballet Bellevue is finally bursting in anticipation of the couple's downtown Bellevue debut. This cultural exchange was to take place last July for Ballet Bellevue's celebration of Bellevue's 50th Birthday during the Bellevue Art Museum Fair, but visa delays prevented the Russian pair from arriving in time for opening night. Ballet Bellevue's Artistic Director, Viktoria Titova, a former dancer with Moscow's Bolshoi Ballet Grigorovich Company. Now leading the Eastside's own professional ballet company, Titova brings to Bellevue the finest international talent to dance with the best trained artists of our own region. Out of fairy dust and a modest budget, Titova puts the wonder in Bellevue's "Magic Season" with her original staging of this seldom seen full-length ballet. Opening Ballet Bellevue's 9th Season, Titova's clear, classical style sets the 1890 choreography of Marius Petipa on a brilliant cast featuring the Russian guest artists in all evening performances. Spectacular palace scenery is courtesy of Tacoma City Ballet, and a dream-like forest is the work of Northwest designer, Bruce Jackson. In a splendor of tutus, the hallmark of ballet's classical era, the Lilac Fairy (Natalie Dahlstrom) reigns over the land of fairies who represent all that is good and beautiful in the world. They eventually triumph over evil which is 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. Although Ballet Bellevue has often produced this beloved fairy tale ballet since their 1995 inaugural season, this year for the first time, the difficult and rarely seen role of the Bluebird will be performed by one of the Northwest's most promising young danseurs, Bryon Brill, with his Lady Bluebird, the Eastside's own Ahnaleza Vandermay. Matinee audiences will be captivated by rising star, Lara Seefeldt of Spectrum Dance Theatre as Aurora, and Brill as the Prince. Area dance schools 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 KING FM 98.1.

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 or [www.ticketwindowonline.com](http://www.ticketwindowonline.com). Group discounts (for 10 or more) and

school shows featuring the Russian guest artists (December 1st at 10:15 AM and 12:15 PM) are available through Ballet Bellevue at 425.455.1345 or [www.balletbellevue.org](http://www.balletbellevue.org).