

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 5, 2004

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SMALL BALLET COMPANY IS BIGGEST SECRET OF SEATTLE COMMUNITY

Bellevue, WA - As the secret got out, audiences swelled at The Theatre at Meydenbauer Center last weekend with cheers, whistles and standing ovations for Ballet Bellevue's "Summer Classics" starring Roberta Marquez and David Makhateli of The Royal Ballet, Covent Garden, London. Directed by Viktoria Titova, former dancer with the Bolshoi Ballet Grigorovich Company, the small Eastside professional ballet company brings the world's greatest artists to Bellevue to perform with our own region's best dancers and talented students who are the hopefuls of the next generation. For the grand finale of her second season as Artistic Director, Titova invited Marquez and Makhateli to perform pas de deux from La Bayadere and Don Quixote. Principal Dancer, Roberta Marquez, and First Soloist, David Makhateli, had just finished their tour with The Royal Ballet in California before performing in Bellevue. This was a second Bellevue appearance for Makhateli who had performed for Ballet Bellevue in July 2003 between his contracts in Houston and London.

Brazilian trained Roberta Marquez worked four years with Makarova and has been principal guest artist with The Royal Ballet and American Ballet Theatre this year. She was just offered a contract as Principal dancer by both companies, and has opted for London. Titova was very excited about the first Bellevue appearance of this great star, "the most extraordinary dancer ever seen in the Northwest."

Also featured in the concert was Titova's own original new work, The Mermaid, starring Bellevue's own Caitlin Cooney of Clyde Hill. Ms. Cooney, a graduate of Pacific Northwest Ballet School, will begin her third season with the State Ballet of Missouri in Kansas City.

The production was sponsored by 4 Culture, Standing Ovation, Hyatt Regency Bellevue, KING FM 98.1, NPR and Minuteman Press of Redmond.

Ballet Bellevue's 10th Season opens with their traditional holiday production of The Sleeping Beauty November 26-29, 2004, to usher in Bellevue's "Magic Season."

For information call 425.455.1345 or visit www.balletbellevue.org. Tickets are available at Ticketwindow 206.325.6500 or www.ticketwindowonline.com.