

PRESS RELEASE

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BALLET BELLEVUE'S *THE SLEEPING BEAUTY* 10TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECTS MEYDENBAUER SELL-OUT WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA

Bellevue, WA – In the wake of performing for Everett Symphony's three performances of *Nutcracker* in the nearly sold-out 1500-seat Everett Civic Auditorium just weeks ago, Ballet Bellevue has taken the bold step to squeeze a live orchestra into the minimum orchestra pit of The Theatre at Meydenbauer Center for this season's 10th Anniversary production of *The Sleeping Beauty* February 11th and 12th. Philip Tschopp of The University of Washington conducts the Ballet Bellevue Orchestra with a distinguished roster of professional musicians and top graduate students. This production celebrates the company's first performance of *The Sleeping Beauty* in February 1996. Guest artist and former Pacific Northwest Ballet Soloist, Oleg Gorboulev, is featured as the Prince with Viktoria Titova as Aurora for the Saturday evening and Sunday performances, and Jeanette Sheard Wilson, graduate of Pacific Northwest Ballet School, as Aurora on Saturday at 2 PM. The finest dancers trained in our own Northwest include Natalie Dahlstrom, in her second decade with Ballet Bellevue, at the height of her reign as The Lilac Fairy, and Traci Wojack in her unforgettable portrayal of Carabosse. Erin McEachran, graduate of Pacific Northwest Ballet School and former dancer with Pittsburgh Ballet, performs Princess Florine, with Jerome Tso of Spectrum Dance Theatre and Evergreen City Ballet as The Bluebird. Performing children's parts are students from regional dance schools, including Ballet Bellevue School.

In a Young Artists performance with orchestral recording Friday, February 10th, Jerome

Tso performs the Prince with Natasha Keeley, age 17, in the coveted role of Aurora, and Alexa Kovalik performs her debut as The Lilac Fairy. The Bluebird and Princess Florine will be performed by Kouki Tanaka and Bridgette Thomas.

Ballet Bellevue's first production of *The Sleeping Beauty*, just ten years ago, was performed to recorded music, but returning with live orchestra in the following three holiday seasons, most of the shows were selling out. To break even was a huge success considering the financial challenge. Fifty seats had to be removed in the already small 410-seat theater to accommodate a 56-piece orchestra spilling out of the pit. With or without orchestra, *The Sleeping Beauty* became the company's signature piece of clear, classical ballet, eventually moving to Thanksgiving weekend at the opening of Bellevue's "Magic Season." The magic is definitely at its fullest with live orchestra, and Tschopp, who formerly worked with Ballet Bellevue dancers in the Cascadian Chorale's production of *the Fairy Queen*, has accepted the daunting challenge to do justice to Tschaikovsky's big score without altering the theater. 2006 technology has its place with Tschopp's determination and ingenuity in the magic of this season's anniversary production!

Performances are Friday and Saturday at 7 PM, and matinees on Saturday at 2 PM and Sunday at 3 PM. For tickets call Ticketwindow at 206.325.6500 or visit www.ticketwindowonline.com. For group discounts (10 or more) call 425.455.1345
TICKETS Friday: Patron (VIP Seating) \$25, Adult \$17, Student/Senior \$10
Saturday and Sunday: Patron (VIP Seating) \$35, Adult \$27, Student/Senior \$16

Special field trip shows will be performed for our region's school children on Monday, February 13th at 10:15 AM and 12:15 PM. *All seats are \$7, and children on free and reduced price lunch are free.* For reservations call 425.455.1345

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