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CINCINNATI BALLET'S *CINDERELLA* BRINGS ROMANCE TO VALENTINE'S WEEKEND

Cincinnati, OH – January 20th, 2010 – Romantic dreams do come true when Cincinnati Ballet's *Cinderella*, with choreography by Artistic Director & CEO Victoria Morgan, takes the stage February 12 – 14, 2010 at The Aronoff Center for the Arts.

Set to Sergei Prokofiev's well-known score performed live under the baton of Maestro Carmon DeLeone, the full-length ballet runs for two evening (8 pm) and two matinee (2 pm) performances.

The scenario is faithful to the beloved 1697 tale by Charles Perrault, in which the heroine's father fails to protect his daughter from the wickedness of a stepmother and two stepsisters. After the intervention of her Fairy Godmother, however, the underappreciated Cinderella is transformed (along with an ordinary pumpkin that becomes a fancy carriage!) into a beautiful young woman who finds love in the arms of a Prince.

The most famous piece from Prokofiev's score is the lovely, melodic waltz of the Act II ball scene, to which the Prince and Cinderella, who have fallen in love at first sight, dance a rapturous pas de deux. The concluding number of the act, when Cinderella realizes she must leave before the clock finishes striking twelve, is charmingly danced by children holding silvery numbers, who form a circle and jump as the orchestra tolls the hours.

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But perhaps even more famously, the ballet is also chock-full of over-the-top pantomime from the Ugly Stepsisters (traditionally danced by men in drag) and other assorted silliness.

However, for choreographer Morgan, the most magical thing about *Cinderella* is that what seems unattainable becomes reality.

“Prokofiev wanted to express the poetic love of Cinderella and the Prince, the birth and flowering of that love, the obstacles in its past and finally the dream fulfilled. In my ballet, there is plenty of fun for the children in the audience, but Cinderella’s touching despair, hope and triumph also engage the adult mind. We all need reminding that dreams can come true.”

Cincinnati Ballet’s first performance of *Cinderella* was in 1989 at Music Hall. Morgan’s version world-premiered on May 12, 2000 at The Aronoff Center for the Arts, and was reprised in February 2005. The first-ever production to use Sergei Prokofiev’s score was created for the Bolshoi in 1945, with choreography by Rostislav Zaharov.

WHAT:

Cincinnati Ballet presents *Cinderella*

WHEN

Friday, February 12th at 8 pm

Saturday, February 13th at 2 pm

Saturday, February 13th at 8 pm

Sunday, February 14th at 2 pm

WHERE:

The Aronoff Center for the Performing Arts

Procter and Gamble Hall

650 Walnut Street

Cincinnati, OH 45202

TICKETS: \$25 - \$80 at the Cincinnati Ballet Box Office, 513-621-5282; or online at www.cincinnatiaballet.com.

About Cincinnati Ballet

For 46 years, Cincinnati Ballet has been the cornerstone professional ballet company of the Cincinnati tri-state area, presenting a mix of important classical full-length ballets and an adventurous and vibrant mix of repertory ballets, regularly with live orchestral accompaniment. Cincinnati Ballet's mission is to inspire hope and joy in our community and beyond through the power and passion of dance. Our mantra: "Everybody dances." To that end, Cincinnati Ballet presents exhilarating performances, extensive education outreach programs (including professional lecture-demos, residencies, scholarship programs and student matinees), and offers top level professional ballet training at Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy, which enjoys an enrollment of over a thousand participants in multi-leveled programs at The Cincinnati Ballet Center. Cincinnati Ballet Academy's "Rhythm & Motion" classes were recently lauded nationally in "36 Hours in Cincinnati, Ohio," a *New York Times* travel article.

Cincinnati Ballet's 2009-2010 Season is generously sponsored by Season Sponsor The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation and Associate Sponsor Rhonda and Larry A. Sheakley Family Foundation

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Cinderella is sponsored by:

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