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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CINCINNATI BALLET PRESENTS EXCITING, DIVERSE SEASON OF NEW IDEAS AND CLASSIC FAVORITES**

*Company's 48<sup>th</sup> Season offers a return to the era of classical ballet, bold new statements in movement, extraordinary world premieres and beloved family classics*

*Subscription Renewals on sale Tuesday, March 22. New subscriptions on sale June 20.  
Single Tickets go on sale Monday, August 1, 2011*

(Cincinnati) – Cincinnati Ballet is pleased to present a rich 2011-12 season replete with strong characters, classical ballet movement, daring dance, bold designs and, of course, the world premiere of the decade, Cincinnati Ballet's New *Frisch's Presents The Nutcracker*.

"Cincinnati Ballet's identity built on the dual presentation of new ideas in dance and important, long-established works that have stood the test of merit," says **Victoria Morgan**, Cincinnati Ballet Artistic Director and CEO. "We could just be any company. We could just do the works that we already know are great successes. But we are Cincinnati Ballet. We've chiseled out an identity by bringing new works which challenge us. At the same time, we present a line of continuity with the great works that established ballet as an important art form with precise technique and classical beauty."

Cincinnati Ballet's 2011-12 six-production season opens Thursday, September 8, 2011, and runs through April 29, 2012 at three venues: The Mickey Jarson Kaplan Performance Studio at Cincinnati Ballet Center, historic Music Hall and Aronoff Center for the Arts. Live musical accompaniment throughout the season featuring the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and the Cincinnati Ballet Orchestra is to be conducted by Cincinnati Ballet Music Director Carmon DeLeone.

Subscription Renewals go on sale March 22 at the Cincinnati Ballet Box Office, 513-621-5282 or at [cballet.org](http://cballet.org). Single tickets go on sale Monday, August 1, 2011.

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## 2011-2012 Cincinnati Ballet Season

[3 WORLD PREMIERES] *New Works*, September 8-18, 2011, Cincinnati Ballet Center

**Choreographers:** Heather Britt, James Kudelka, Adam Houglan, Johanna Wilt

**Music:** Various

*New Works* is Cincinnati Ballet's annual contribution to the world of dance. This season-opening production consistently brings audacious new artistic movement to the studio stage. This season's *New Works* offers three innovative world premieres commissioned by Cincinnati Ballet and one regional premiere. The series runs Thursday, September 8 through Sunday, September 18, 2011 on Cincinnati Ballet's studio stage in the intimate Mickey Jarson Kaplan Performance Studio.

"It's really important for our dancers to bring their personal experiences to their work," says Morgan. "We ask them to be inventive, to shape a new choreographic work with their unique strengths, humor, personalities, intellect and spirit. I'm always asking, 'what do we need to do that will push us, pull us, challenge us, inspire us?' If the dancers are inspired, the audience is too."

### CHOREOGRAPHERS / *NEW WORKS*

- **Heather Britt**, the extraordinarily popular regional director of Cincinnati Ballet's Rhythm & Motion, collaborates with published poet **Tonya Mathews** (Ja Hipster). Britt choreographed for *New Works* in 2009 and 2010 and now takes a different approach to combine her emotionally charged, physically exuberant choreography with this spoken-word dance piece.
- Cincinnati Ballet's beloved resident choreographer **Adam Houglan** returns to create a new piece for the company. Houglan is the young dance genius behind 2010's riotously popular *Mozart's Requiem* and 2011's *The Firebird*.
- **James Kudelka** is known as one of the world's most courageous and innovative choreographers and former, long-time director of the National Ballet of Canada. He brings his contemporary perspective to Cincinnati Ballet with *The Man in Black* to music by the iconic country rock musician **Johnny Cash**, whose touching but fatalistic songwriting and unique musical style inspired generations of musicians across genres.
- In 1981, **Johanna Wilt** was a young dancer with Cincinnati Ballet. Thirty years later, she is still with the company as Principal Ballet Mistress, coaching and rehearsing the dancers. In celebration of this fantastic milestone, Wilt is working with Cincinnati composer **Rick Sowash** to create a piece for *New Works*.

"For die-hard arts lovers, it rarely gets more exhilarating than this," wrote *Cincinnati Enquirer's* David Lyman about *New Works* 2010.

***Giselle*, October 28-30, Music Hall**

**Choreographer:** Devon Carney, after Marius Petipa

**Music:** Adolphe Adam, performed by the CSO

Cincinnati Ballet honors the long history of classical ballet with this important classical tragedy. Associate Artistic Director **Devon Carney** choreographs after **Marius Petipa**, and the CSO performs music by **Adolphe Adam**

This great classic ballet tragedy premiered June 28, 1841 at the Paris Opéra Ballet. The story is based on the German legend about Wilis, women who had been betrayed by their betrothed and died before marrying. The ethereal virgins haunt graveyards, enacting revenge on men who cross their paths. The peasant girl Giselle goes mad after falling in love with Albrecht, an aristocrat who deceives her. The story of betrayal, forgiveness and love that transcends death ends in a graveyard, an eerie but fitting setting for Halloween weekend. Although she has become a ghostly Wili herself, Giselle fights to protect her beloved from the other Wilis who have ordered him to “dance until you die.”

Associate Artistic Director Devon Carney premiered his *Giselle* choreography in 2006.

“Cincinnati Ballet managed an exquisite marriage of delicate, precision dancing and compelling dramatics to honor this great 19th century romantic ballet,” wrote Jerry Stein in *The Cincinnati Post*. “Devon Carney brings superb guidance to his restrained choreography. His approach not only allows a poetic display of dancing from the principals but impressive lyricism of the company’s women’s chorus. The corps so pristine, so poetic here has never looked so competently rehearsed for a story ballet.”

**[WORLD PREMIERE]**

***Frisch’s Presents The Nutcracker*, December 15-23, Aronoff Center for the Arts**

**Choreographer:** Victoria Morgan

**Music:** Tchaikovsky, performed by the CSO

It’s the world premiere of the decade and a crowning achievement for Victoria Morgan in her 15<sup>th</sup> season as Artistic Director and 4<sup>th</sup> season as CEO of Cincinnati Ballet. Morgan has been dancing, choreographing, performing, staging, promoting, listening to and watching *The Nutcracker* since she herself first performed in the classic ballet at age 8. Now, Morgan presents a gift to Cincinnati: a *Nutcracker* that is all her own creation.

“This new *Nutcracker* will be simply spectacular, with vivid colors and whimsical design, quickly moving action, and lively, entertaining, even surprising moments,” says Morgan. “We take ourselves so seriously. Why can’t we introduce a little humor and a lot of magic?”

“I come from a long line of multiple Nutcrackers spanning from age 8 to when I retired from dancing at 35,” says Morgan. “I have not only been in multiple versions, I’ve also danced every female role from Party Scene Girl to Snowflake to Sugar Plum Fairy. There will be parts of that long history that I will be running away from, and sections that hopefully will surprise me, you, the audience and our dancers.”

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The production features 15 entirely new sets: full-stage, seamless drops by renowned set designer John Ezell, hand-painted by scenic artists at Michael Hagan studio. Cincinnati Ballet's local I.A.T.S.E. union will build 20 large deck units, including a growing wardrobe, grandfather clock, trick kitchen tables and antique furniture. More than 200 new costumes designed by Tony Award-nominated costume designer Carrie F. Robbins are being constructed by Cincinnati Ballet's wardrobe department, Playhouse in the Park and Madcap Puppets workshop. Swirling special effects, lighting and projected images add to the excitement. Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra performs a new arrangement of Tchaikovsky's beloved score.

Cincinnati Ballet's *Frisch's Presents The Nutcracker* has traditionally been the most exuberant, opulent production of the company's annual season, with ornate costumes and sets and an enormous cast, which includes supernumeraries from the community and dozens of children. This new production features even more children, performing not just as children of the partygoers but also as gymnasts, baby mice, snowflakes, chicks and more.

***Carmen*, February 10-12, Aronoff Center for the Arts**

**Choreography:** Amedeo Amodio

**Music:** Georges Bizet, performed by the Cincinnati Ballet Orchestra

French musician **Georges Bizet** composed Spanish music for the famous opera, and Italian choreographer **Amedeo Amodio** choreographed a contemporary ballet. The movement incorporates contemporary scenic and costume design, with classical ballet as well as theatrical and modern movement to tell the story of the brash beauty who fiercely guards her independence and the two men obsessed with possessing her. Cincinnati Ballet Orchestra performs the melodic score that is replete with familiar favorites.

Amodio's world premiere of *Carmen* at Tulsa Ballet garnered high praise from dance critic James D. Watts, Jr. in the *Tulsa World*: "Few of these ballets (other versions of Carmen) distill the essence of this story into so dramatic a form as Amodio's. In fact, this is one of the best – if not the best – presentations of this passionate, tragic story that I've ever seen."

***Rite of Spring and Vivace*, March 16-17, Aronoff Center for the Arts**

**Choreography for *Rite of Spring*:** Adam Hougland

**Music for *Rite of Spring*:** Igor Stravinsky, performed by the CSO

Cincinnati Ballet Resident Choreographer Adam Hougland returns with his design partner Marion Williams. Their choreography and design for Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* premiered in Louisville in 2009. Williams and Hougland honor the composition's provocative history by creating around it a bold and daring world, expressing not a reverence of nature, but instead the dire consequences of turning one's back on it. "After creating *Rite of Spring*, I find I love Stravinsky for what he forces out of me. The music is intricate, detailed and bizarre in some places, and beautiful but kind of shrill and atonal in others," says Adam Hougland, Cincinnati Ballet Resident Choreographer. "It pushes you as a choreographer. It's not the kind of music I would just play at home. It's hard work, but the more you work with it, the more you fall in love."

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**Choreography for *Vivace*:** Val Caniparoli

**Music for *Vivace*:** Schubert, performed by the CSO

Cincinnati Ballet rounds out the March series with a presentation of *Vivace*, Val Caniparoli's simply elegant, non-narrative nod to ballet classicism to Franz Schubert's Symphony No 2 in B flat, D. 125. Caniparoli says, "I was commissioned to create this abstract work that related directly to the quality and style of music."

Cincinnati audiences are familiar with Caniparoli, who choreographed the company's most recent *Nutcracker*, which ran for ten seasons. "Abstract musicality was a departure for me - I'm used to creating work with a narrative or a deeper meaning," he says. "But I love being challenged by directors who have something specific in mind. This work shows off the technical abilities of the dancers, without pretense. It's pure, classical technique with no hidden meaning."

***Princess and the Pea*, April 27-29, Aronoff Center for the Arts**

**Choreography:** Victoria Morgan

**Music:** Carmon DeLeone

Cincinnati Ballet premiered its homegrown classic *Princess and the Pea* in 1999. Choreographed by Morgan and with music by DeLeone, this family treat combines storytelling dance and slapstick comedy to weave a narrative about the unassuming young woman who discovers, after a fitful night on a mountain of blankets, that she is a princess. Cincinnati Ballet Orchestra performs under the devoted baton of Maestro DeLeone. Families will delight in this whimsical, fun fairytale.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TICKETS FOR CINCINNATI BALLET'S 2011-12 SEASON**

Renewal subscriptions to Cincinnati Ballet's 2011-12 Season are available March 22 through the Cincinnati Ballet box office, 513-621-5282 or in person at 1555 Central Parkway, Monday – Friday, 9 am – 4 pm. NEW subscriptions become available June 20. The family subscription package also includes *Frisch's Presents The Nutcracker*. Single tickets for the subscription season, as well as *Frisch's Presents The Nutcracker*, go on sale to the general public Monday, August 1, 2011. All programming is subject to change. For more information, visit Cincinnati Ballet's website, [cballet.org](http://cballet.org).

## **CINCINNATI BALLET'S 2011-12 SEASON**

### **WHEN**

September 8, 2011 – April 29, 2012

**WHERE:** Cincinnati Ballet's 2011-12 Season's three venues:

*New Works* is performed at:

The Mickey Jarson Kaplan Performance Studio

Cincinnati Ballet Center

1555 Central Parkway

Cincinnati, OH 45202

Cincinnati Ballet's *Giselle*

Music Hall

1241 Elm Street

Cincinnati, OH 45202

All other 2010-11 Season performances, including *Frisch's Presents The Nutcracker*

Aronoff Center for the Arts

Procter & Gamble Hall

650 Walnut Street

Cincinnati, OH 45202

**TICKETS:** Renewal subscriptions are available March 21, 2011. New subscriptions become available June 20, 2011. Single tickets \$25 - \$90\*; go on sale Monday, August 1, 2010 at Cincinnati Ballet Box Office, 513-621-5282; or online at [www.cballet.org](http://www.cballet.org).

\* Prices subject to change.

### **THE SEASON AT A GLANCE**

#### **New Works**

September 8 – 18, 2011

#### **Giselle**

October 28 – 30, 2011

#### **Frisch's Presents The Nutcracker**

December 15 – 23, 2011

#### **Carmen**

February 10 – 11, 2012

#### **Rite of Spring**

March 16 – 17, 2012

#### **Princess and the Pea**

April 27 – 30, 2012

**\*Schedule and all programming subject to change.**

## **About Cincinnati Ballet**

Since 1963, Cincinnati Ballet has been the cornerstone professional ballet company of the region, presenting a mix of important classical full-length ballets and an adventurous, 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 is "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 more than a thousand participants in multi-level programs across two studio campuses.

Cincinnati Ballet welcomes our returning 2011-2012 sponsors:

Season Sponsor: The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation

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Additional funding is provided by Ohio Arts Council and the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission.

Cincinnati Ballet's *New Nutcracker* is generously sponsored by Frisch's Restaurants, Inc.

Additional *New Nutcracker* partners are PNC Bank, Robert H. Reakirt Foundation, Sheakley Group of Companies; Eleanora C. U. Alms Trust, Fifth Third Bank Trustee; Gannett Foundation; and The Louise Taft Semple Foundation.

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