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CINCINNATI BALLET BRINGS TWO DIVERSE PRODUCTIONS TO THE STAGE THIS FEBRUARY

A contemporary version of "Carmen" runs two weekends, perfect for Valentine's Day celebrations while family friendly, affordable "Ballet Toybox" is offered for one performance only

CINCINNATI, OH. Cincinnati Ballet presents *Carmen* February 10-11 and 17-18, 2012 and *Ballet Toybox* February 18, 2012 at the Aronoff Center for the Arts in Cincinnati.

This passionate, contemporary Cincinnati premiere of *Carmen*, choreographed by **Amedeo Amodio**, takes the stage February 10-11 and February 17-18. The ominous and poignant story of a fierce beauty destined to a tragic fate, *Carmen* offers audiences a seductive journey of passion and conquest. Set to the illustrious music of Georges Bizet, made famous by the opera of the same name, it is a classic story told through contemporary movement that is raw and sensual and sure to set emotions astir.

Amodio's theatrical telling focuses on Carmen's pervasive sensuality and on the story's emotional theme of destiny versus free will, accentuated by contemporary scenic, lighting and costume design. This familiar and rich melodic orchestration is performed by the **Cincinnati Ballet Orchestra** and conducted by **Carmon DeLeone**.

Amodio's world premiere of *Carmen* at Tulsa Ballet garnered high praise from dance critic James D. Watts, Jr., *Tulsa World*: "*Few of these ballets (other versions of "Carmen") distil 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.*"

Italian choreographer **Amodio** is an internationally renowned performer, director and choreographer having worked extensively with the famous La Scala Ballet, Aterballetto in Milan and the Corps de Ballet of the Theatre of the Opera in Rome. His work is now performed around the globe and he is revered internationally as an accomplished and adventuresome contemporary choreographer.

Carmen is part of an extensive collaboration between Cincinnati Ballet and BalletMet in Columbus. By sharing production costs including choreography, répétiteur and licensing fees, visas as well as set and

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costume rentals, both companies are able to present world-class productions in their respective communities.

*"We have added a second weekend of "Carmen" performances so that we are able to offer our patrons and the community more opportunities to see this Cincinnati premiere and our amazing dancers," says **Missie Santomo**, Managing Director of Cincinnati Ballet. "February is usually the time we present a "story-book" ballet, a favorite among families and children. Since "Carmen" appeals to an adult audience, we are presenting "Ballet Toybox" as an option for those with small children."*

Cincinnati Ballet presents *Ballet Toybox*, a diverse and entertaining program with a mix of classical and contemporary ballet selections, for one matinee on February 18 with all tickets priced at \$25. This program, at less than an hour, is designed to delight families and introduce children to the art form of ballet. The matinee on February 18 is at 1:00 p.m.

*"This new program of "Ballet Toybox" offers a fun and lively mix of entertaining works and will include the world premiere of the full length narrative telling of "Peter and the Wolf" as well as sneak peak excerpts of "Princess and the Pea" and "The Steadfast Tin Soldier" which are included in the family series that ends our season," says **Devon Carney**, Associate Artistic Director and choreographer. "Additionally, audience members will get to see short portions of "Swan Lake" and our recently premiered "Frisch's Presents The New Nutcracker." This event promises to be a delight to the senses with something for all those who are young at heart! Swans, soldiers, a wolf oh my!"*

Tickets for *Carmen* start at \$30. All tickets for *Ballet Toybox* are \$25. Tickets are available through the Cincinnati Ballet Box Office (513) 621-5282 or in person at 1555 Central Parkway, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. Programming is subject to change. For additional information or to purchase tickets online visit www.cballet.org.

Carmen Production Sponsors include John C. Griswold Foundation in Memory of Mr. Alexander Moore, Ernst & Young LLP, Thompson Hine LLP and Mr. & Mrs. Timothy R. Brown, Oliver Family Foundation, Gary & Diane West.

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, CincyDance, 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.

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