

 **PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET**
PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Pacific Northwest Ballet and PNB School present

**NEXT
STEP**

PNB's annual choreographic showcase features new works created by company dancers, performed by students of the PNB School Professional Division.

One Night Only!
Tuesday, June 4, 2024
7:00 PM

On the Boards
100 West Roy Street
Seattle, WA 98119

SEATTLE, WA — Pacific Northwest Ballet's annual choreographers' showcase, **NEXT STEP**, returns to On the Boards for a night of original danceworks. This year's showcase features six premieres choreographed by PNB company dancers Lily Wills, Noah Martzall, Luca Anaya, Melisa Guilliams, and the co-choreographer teams of Elle Macy/Dylan Wald and Amanda Morgan/Christopher D'Ariano, all set on the Professional Division student dancers of PNB School – the dance stars of tomorrow, on stage today. **NEXT STEP** will be presented one night only, Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are only \$30 (general admission) and may be purchased through the PNB Box Office, 206.441.2424 or PNB.org.

NEXT STEP provides dancers, studio space, and rehearsal time for company members who wish to hone their choreography skills. It was originally conceived by Artistic Director Peter Boal as a means to develop emerging choreographic talent, and as a channel for Professional Division students from PNB School (talented young artists one step away from their professional careers) to participate in the creation of a new work. "It's all right there in the name: **NEXT STEP** offers members of the PNB company more than just studio space, talented dancers, and support from PNB's incredible costume, lighting, and stage management departments. This is an opportunity to push forward in dance, and one that can have a substantial and long-term impact on a dancer artist's career. There are eight exciting **NEXT STEP** choreographers this season, some returning artists from the past and some new," said program

coordinator Eva Stone. "All are busy creating inside this unique laboratory of movement exploration and discovery. The Professional Division students are not only working with heart and commitment but are learning new perspectives about the creative process from the ground up."

The **NEXT STEP** line-up includes:

Spectators

Music: John Corigliano, Philippe Quint; Magma, 4lienetic; Boards of Canada

Choreography: Luca Anaya

Luca Anaya's work for Next Step is sponsored by Dr. Joe G. Norman, T.R. Ko, and Amy Haugerud & Noel Miller.

The Spotlight Effect

Music: Lambert, Julia Kent

Choreography: Melisa Guilliams

Our spotlight follows us throughout our day, illuminating our successes and failures, making it impossible for them to be missed by others. But who is holding this spotlight? Is it us or is it even there at all?

Melisa Guilliams' work for Next Step is sponsored by Susan Young Buske.

Ain't Misbehavin'

Music: Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, Johnny Hodges, Fats Waller

Choreography: Elle Macy and Dylan Wald

Ghost Light: a solitary beacon, standing at the heart of the stage, casting its soft radiance throughout the empty theater. According to legend, these lights pacify the spirits who are believed to wander the stage after dark, illuminating the theater until the next performance.

Ain't Misbehavin' is dedicated to Shelly, Linda and Rico. With inspiration and admiration for our first Jazz teachers, and of course Bob Fosse.

Elle Macy and Dylan Wald's *Ain't Misbehavin'* is sponsored by Connie & Tom* Walsh.

Fracture into pieces

Music: Valgeir Sigurðsson

Choreography: Noah Martzall

This work explores a movement language that defies any gender. The narrative that follows is based off of the organic relationships between the dancers, music, and atmosphere we've created in the studios together. Divided into seven sections, this piece moves in swift vignettes showcasing all the dancers both individually and as a collective.

Noah Martzall's work for Next Step is sponsored by Once Upon a Dance & The Lucinda Hughey Endowed Fund.

Dream City

Music: Roméo Poirier, Photay, Teen Daze, Alex North/Hy Zaret and The Fleetwoods

Choreography: Amanda Morgan and Christopher D'Ariano

Where does a memory truly live? *Dream City* seeks to explore this idea through a protagonist whose mundane city life is interrupted by a past fond memory of a connection she once had. This piece is dedicated to the dreamers, and the ones who continue to live in our memories.

Christopher D'Ariano and Amanda Morgan's work for Next Step is sponsored by Madelyn Lindsay.

Isle of Woman

Music: Maurice Ravel, Berlin Philharmonic featuring Martha Argerich

Choreography: Lily Wills

Loosely based on the Greek myth of Circe, this piece is a celebration of divine femininity. Three sailors make landfall on an island inhabited by a sisterhood of mystical Nymphs. At first enchanted by their beauty, the sailor's horror mounts as they find themselves at the mercy of their captors' power. Will they escape or be turned to pigs?

Lily Wills' work for Next Step is sponsored by Stephen & Marie Heil.

TICKET & SHOWTIME INFORMATION

NEXT STEP will be presented one night only, Tuesday, June 4, at On the Boards, 100 West Roy Street on Lower Queen Anne. Showtime is 7:00 PM.

This is a general admission event: Seating is first come, first served. (Doors and box office open at 6:00, and seating begins at 6:30 PM.) All tickets are \$30, and may be purchased through the PNB Box Office:

- Phone - 206.441.2424
- In Person - 301 Mercer Street, Seattle
- Online - PNB.org

Subject to availability, tickets are also available one hour prior to show time at On the Boards. There will be no student or senior rush tickets sold for **NEXT STEP**.

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NEXT STEP 2024 is made possible thanks to Once Upon a Dance & The Lucinda Hughey Endowed Fund; Dr. Joe G. Norman, T.R. Ko, and Amy Haugerud & Noel Miller; Susan Young Buske; Stephen & Marie Heil; Madelyn Lindsay; and Connie & Tom* Walsh. Pacific Northwest Ballet's 2023-2024 season is proudly sponsored by ArtsFund, Microsoft, and The Shubert Foundation. PNB media sponsorship provided by *The Seattle Times*.

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Everything is subject to change. For further information, please visit PNB.org.

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