



**For Immediate Release**

**PENINSULA BALLET THEATRE TO POSTPONE UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**FULL-LENGTH *HIP HOP CINDERELLA* AND *CARMEN***

**AT SAN FRANCISCO'S PRESIDIO THEATRE, MARCH 27, 28 & 29;**

**ALL STUDENT & ADULT BALLET CLASSES SUSPENDED UNTIL APRIL 6**

[www.peninsulaballet.org](http://www.peninsulaballet.org)

San Mateo, CA (March 13, 2020) — Peninsula Ballet Theatre (PBT) today announced its decision to postpone performances scheduled for March 27, 28 and 29 at San Francisco's Presidio Theatre due to the unprecedented outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Peninsula Ballet Theatre's utmost concern is to protect and support the Company dancers, crew, staff and audience, and to not contribute in any way to the ongoing wave of Bay Area coronavirus cases. The Company is in negotiations with the Presidio Theatre to determine future performance dates for later this season.

Peninsula Ballet Theatre was scheduled to return to San Francisco for the first time in 18 years and was honored to be a part of the Presidio Theatre's inaugural season. The San Mateo-based ballet company was scheduled to present a revival of their popular full-length ballet, *Hip Hop Cinderella* by Stuck Sanders and Alee Martinez, along with a mixed repertory program featuring the premiere of Company Artistic Director Gregory Amato's reimagined *Carmen* set to Rodion Shchedrin's bold arrangement of Georges Bizet's score for strings and battery of percussion.

In a related announcement, the Company has suspended all ballet and dance classes for over 300 students and adults effective Saturday, March 14 through Monday, April 6. The PBT School will extend the current school term into the month of June. The Company's June Showcase will now be held June 13 with a student performance of *Alice in Wonderland*.

Company Executive Director and CEO Christine Leslie said, "It is with regret, though not unexpected, that today we announce the postponement of Peninsula Ballet Theatre's upcoming San Francisco engagement. This decision was reached unanimously by the Ballet Board and artistic leadership in light of the serious nature of the coronavirus (COVID-19) moving through the Bay Area community. The health and safety of our Company dancers, crew, staff and audience is of the utmost importance and we simply cannot risk jeopardizing anyone's health. Stay tuned as we look to announce new dates for our San Francisco return. Additionally, we will suspend all PBT School classes for students and adults effective tomorrow, Saturday, March 14 through April 6."

Individuals who have purchased tickets to the Peninsula Ballet Theatre's performances at the Presidio Theatre may hold on to their tickets for a soon-to-be announced rescheduling of *Hip Hop Cinderella* and *Carmen*, or they may return to the point of purchase for a full refund.

Founded in 1967, Peninsula Ballet Theatre is the second oldest professional ballet company in the Bay Area. In 2010, it opened the Peninsula Ballet Theatre Conservatory in a 30,000-foot space at 1880 South Grant Street in San Mateo. Over the past ten years, the Conservatory has become an artistic hub with classes in all forms of dance, vocal and acting training as well as a fine art gallery for local artists. The Company annually presents a home season of full-length ballets and mixed repertory programs of classic ballets and contemporary dance works at Redwood City's Fox Theatre. The Company also maintains a robust community engagement program for students, families and seniors on the Peninsula.

For additional information, please visit [www.PeninsulaBallet.org](http://www.PeninsulaBallet.org).

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