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**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TERRENCE S. ORR  
PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE**

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**Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Opens “Beauty and the Beast” Presented by PNC over Valentine’s Day Weekend**

*The two-week run will include a special sensory-friendly production.*



**PITTSBURGH, PA (Jan. 2020)** - Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (PBT) will stage a two-week run of Lew Christensen’s “Beauty and the Beast” presented by PNC, opening this Valentine’s Day weekend at the Benedum Center. The program will run Feb. 14-23, 2020, and will include a special [sensory-friendly production](#) on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 4:30 p.m. Tickets start \$15 for the sensory-friendly performance and \$28 for all other performances, and are on sale now at [www.pbt.org](http://www.pbt.org), 412-456-6666 or the Box Office at Theater Square.

The classic tale of inner beauty comes to life through neoclassical choreography, a tapestry of Tchaikovsky masterworks and magnificent costumes – some of which have been revamped for the 2020 production. Stags, nymphs and other magical creatures inhabit the Beast’s enchanted forest, creating an otherworldly experience for audiences of all ages.

Originally created for San Francisco Ballet in 1958 – and later restaged in 1982 – the production features music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, costume design by José Varona and choreography by Lew Christensen, who is considered the first American-born premier male dancer and is the creator of more than 110 ballets. “Beauty and the Beast” was last performed by PBT in 2015 as part of its 45th Anniversary Season.

At 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 23, PBT will stage a special sensory-friendly production of “Beauty and the Beast” for audiences with sensory sensitivities or other individualized needs. Accommodations for the sensory-friendly performance include relaxed house rules, lower sound levels, live audio-description of the ballet and specially trained volunteers. Quiet areas and activity areas will be set up in the Benedum Center lobby, and the use of fidget objects, earplugs, iPads and other electronic devices will be allowed.

**Single tickets start at \$15 for the sensory-friendly performance and \$28 for all other performances, and are on sale now at [www.pbt.org](http://www.pbt.org), 412-456-6666 or the Box Office at Theater Square. Groups of 10 or more can save up to 50 percent on tickets by calling 412-454-9101 or emailing [groupsales@pittsburghballet.org](mailto:groupsales@pittsburghballet.org).**

### **About Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre**

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre has been Pittsburgh’s premier professional ballet company since 1969. Today, PBT is a nationally recognized ballet company of 30 professional dancers, a training institution for over 1,200 students of all ages, and an incubator for education and accessibility programs in classrooms, libraries and community centers throughout the region. Led by Artistic Director Terrence S. Orr, the company performs a wide-ranging repertoire of classical ballets, contemporary masterworks and new commissions in more than 50 performances annually at home and on tour.

*The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust has helped to transform a downtrodden section of Downtown into a world-class Cultural District that stands as a national model of urban revitalization through the arts. Touring Broadway, contemporary dance, family performances, festivals, visual arts, education and community events are among the wide variety of arts and entertainment programs that the Trust presents and exhibits.*

*Hundreds of artists, thousands of students and millions of people expand their horizons in our theaters, galleries and public art environments.*