



For Immediate Release

**PENINSULA LIVELY ARTS
PENINSULA BALLET THEATRE ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF NEW PRODUCING
ORGANIZATION TO MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT DIVERSE SEASONAL
PROGRAMMING OF CLASSICAL & CONTEMPORARY BALLET, HIP-HOP DANCE,
BROADWAY MUSICAL THEATER, WORLD DANCE & MUSIC and the
PENINSULA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS;
2023-24 SEASON PROGRAMMING REVEALED**

Season Video Highlights: https://youtu.be/B04rZ_BtAAA
www.peninsulalivelyarts.org

San Mateo, Calif. (August 24, 2023) — **Christine Leslie**, Executive Director and Producer for Peninsula Ballet Theatre, today announced the formation of a new arts producing organization, **Peninsula Lively Arts**, to more accurately reflect the 56-year-old ballet company's evolving mission and diverse entertainment offerings in response to the changing cultural eco-system on the Peninsula and community demographics. The rebranding is intended to establish a clear identity for the non-profit organization and its relationship with ticket buyers and supporters. The new branding goes in effect this month.

Peninsula Lively Arts will retain the Peninsula Ballet Theatre company and school, renamed the Peninsula School of Performing Arts, offering annual classical and contemporary ballet productions on stage in addition to weekly in-studio class instruction, both professional and recreational, ranging in age from young students to adult programs. **Gregory Amato** is the Artistic Director of the ballet company and school.

Under the Peninsula Lively Arts umbrella will be a continuation of the highly successful Hip-Hop Dance Productions, including recent presentations of *Hip-Hop Nutcracker*, *Hip-Hop Halloween*, *Hip-Hop Cinderella*, under the artistic guidance of **Stuck Sanders** and **Alee Martinez**. Adding to the Peninsula Lively Arts annual programs is the newly formed Peninsula Broadway Productions under the artistic direction of **Gary Stanford, Jr.**, and in its second successful year, the Peninsula

International Dance Festival, a summer showcase of dozens of Bay Area world dance and music companies, led by an advisory committee including **Carlos Carvajal**.

Christine Leslie said, “Welcome to Peninsula Lively Arts, our brand-new name for the Peninsula’s leading producer of performing arts productions and dance instruction. We are announcing this new organizational name to more accurately reflect our evolving mission and multiple program offerings in response to the changing cultural ecosystem on the Peninsula and Bay Area. For the past 56 years, we’ve been known solely as Peninsula Ballet Theatre and Conservatory, the Bay Area’s second oldest ballet company, producing seasonal ballet and contemporary dance productions while giving weekly instruction in ballet and other dance genres. Peninsula Ballet Theatre’s highly professional core values, both on the stage and in the teaching studio, will remain unchanged.

“Over the past six years, we have reshaped our seasonal offerings to include highly successful and vibrant hip-hop dance productions such as our *Hip-Hop Nutcracker*, *Hip-Hop Halloween* and more. Building on this success, we have expanded to produce Broadway musical theater works and recently completed our second summer season with the new Peninsula International Dance Festival. All of these new initiatives have earned praise and enthusiastic appreciation from our growing community of supporters and ticket buyers.

“We believe our new producing name, Peninsula Lively Arts, is more reflective of the organization’s current and future goals and aspirations. We’ve set the ballet barre high but we trust this name change will find resonance with the Bay Area community. We invite you to step into this bright future with us.”

Coinciding with the announcement of the organization’s new branding, Peninsula Lively Arts today shared details of the upcoming 2023-24 season including several collaborative productions.

The 2023-24 Peninsula Lively Arts Season

GHOST DANCES: A DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS TALE OF TWO WORLDS

In celebration of *Day of the Dead/A Día de Los Muertos*, a new collaborative dance production featuring artists from **Peninsula Ballet Theatre**, **Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Carlos Moreno** and **Calpulli Tonalehqueh** (Aztec Dancers).

Choreography and scenario by **Gregory Amato** and **Carlos Moreno**. The public is invited to dress in Halloween costume.

Friday, October 27, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 28 at 7 p.m.

Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway, Redwood City

HIP-HOP HALLOWEEN

Just in time for Halloween, a refreshed hip-hop celebration of this cherished holiday spectacle of spooky ghouls and classic monsters performing virtuosic break dancing, popping and high-voltage dancing.

A 50-minute abridged version for families created by **Stuck Sanders & Aleé Martinez**. Public invited to dress in costume.

Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 11.30 a.m., 2.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.
Sunday, October 29 at 11.30 a.m., 2.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.
Peninsula Lively Arts Studio One, 1880 South Grant Street, San Mateo

CLASSICAL NUTCRACKER SWEET

A 50-minute abridged version for children ages 3 to 6 and families
Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 at 11.30 a.m., 2.30 p.m., 4.30 p.m.
and Sunday, Dec. 3 at 11.30 a.m., 2.30 p.m., 4.30 p.m.
Peninsula Lively Arts Studio One Theatre, 1880 South Grant, San Mateo

HIP-HOP NUTCRACKER SWEET

A 50-minute abridged version for children ages 3 to 6 and families:
Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023 at 11.30 a.m., 2.30 p.m., 4.30 p.m.
and Sunday, Dec. 10 at 11.30 a.m., 2.30 p.m., 4.30 p.m.
Peninsula Lively Arts Studio One Theatre, 1880 South Grant, San Mateo

CLASSICAL NUTCRACKER

Two-act classical and elegant ballet production of the *Nutcracker* for the whole family inspired by E.T.A. Hoffmann's timeless holiday tale with refreshed choreography by **Gregory Amato**; music by **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**.
Friday, December 15, 2023 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, December 16 at 2 p.m.
Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway, Redwood City

HIP-HOP NUTCRACKER

Working from E. T. A. Hoffmann's classic Christmas tale, join the company for a new interpretation of this holiday favorite with high voltage hip-hop choreography by **Stuck Sanders** and **Alee Martinez**. Music by **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** overlaid with customized beats by the group's musical engineers.
Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 7 p.m.
Sunday, December 17 at 2 p.m.
Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway, Redwood City

SALUTE TO BROADWAY

Dances and songs from multiple Broadway shows including The Music Man, Chicago, Hair, In the Heights, Phantom of the Opera & more! New production featuring choreography by **Gregory Amato** and stage direction by **Gary Stanford, Jr.**; full company of dancers and vocal soloists to be announced.
Friday, February 2, 2024 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, February 3 at 2 pm
Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway, Redwood City

MOZART REQUIEM

Following last season's joint presentation of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Peninsula Ballet Theatre collaborates with the San Mateo-based Masterworks Chorale, celebrating their 60th anniversary season, in a new dance and music presentation of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Requiem in D minor with **Dr. Bryan Baker**, conductor and **Gregory Amato**, choreographer. Program includes J.S. Bach's Magnificat in D Major and will feature a live orchestra; Requiem vocal soloists to be announced.

Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 7 at 4 p.m.

Woodside Performing Arts Center, 199 Churchill Avenue, Woodside

www.masterworksbayarea.org/concerts

PENINSULA INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL 2024

Featuring dozens of Bay Area world dance and music companies in a two-day festival highlighting the multi-cultural dance traditions from Africa, South East Asia, Latin and South America, the Pacific Islands, Europe, South Asia, the Middle East, the United States, and East Asia; artists to be announced in 2024.

Saturday, July 20, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, July 21 at 2 p.m.

San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 600 North Delaware Street, San Mateo

For tickets and more information, visit www.peninsulalivelyarts.org.

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Press Contact: Jon Finck, jonfincksf@gmail.com / +1 415 577 1323

Please connect for interviews, artwork and press credentials.

All programs subject to change.

Calendar current as of August 24, 2023