

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CLASSICAL BALLET OF CALIFORNIA &  
PENINSULA BALLET THEATRE PRESENT  
*GISELLE***

*Terra Nova Theater, Pacifica*

*June 21-22, 2019 at 8pm*

*Tickets: \$15-30*

[www.classicalballetofcalifornia.com](http://www.classicalballetofcalifornia.com)

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



PACIFICA, CA– The classic 1841 romantic tragedy materializes in this full-length co-production featuring professional and student dancers of Classical Ballet of California and Peninsula Ballet Theatre. Set to Adolphe Adam's timeless score, *Giselle* tells the tale of a young peasant woman whose love and forgiveness transcend death to protect her aristocratic lover from vengeful supernatural forces.

### **About CBC Director Nina Baratova**

Ms. Baratova began her training with the San Francisco Ballet School and continued with Barbara Crockett in Sacramento. She is a former principal with the Sacramento Ballet and has danced leading roles in such ballets as *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, *Coppelia*, *La Fille Mal Gardee*, *Les Sylphides*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*, as well as a wide range of contemporary works, many of which were created specifically for her. She spent a summer studying at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow, where she was personally invited by the Academy Director to stay and study on a two year scholarship, she was a finalist in the 5th International Ballet Competition in Paris, France, where the famous Russian ballerina Galina Ulanova was a judge, and in 1997, was awarded an Emerging Artist Grant from the Sacramento Mayor, and the Metropolitan Arts Commission.

Ms. Baratova's teaching experience includes classes for the Deane Dance Center, Sacramento Ballet, and master classes around the country. She has been Director of Classical Ballet of California since 1997, where she teaches daily ballet classes to children and adults, from beginning to professional levels. As Director, Ms. Baratova has staged numerous productions for the school, including *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote*, *Coppelia*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *La Fille Mal Gardee*, *Cinderella*, *Peter Pan* and annual productions of *The Nutcracker*, incorporating all of the students as well as volunteer members of the community.

In 2002 and 2003, Ms. Baratova successfully produced a 22 city, 4 state tour of *The Nutcracker*, with the Russian Festival Ballet of Moscow, and local children. Recently, she has been featured in the Sacramento Ballet performances of *Romeo & Juliet* as Lady Capulet and *Cinderella* as the stepmother.

### **About PBT Artistic Director Gregory Amato**

Gregory Amato has a wide breadth of experience in the international world of ballet. During his four years with Ballet Du Nord in France, Mr. Amato performed in 53 countries. These included performances before the Queen of England, two presidents, numerous ambassadors, dignitaries and prime ministers.

He was tapped by New York City Ballet principal dancer Edward Villella to join him as a founding member of Villella's Miami City Ballet. After relocating to the Bay Area, he was similarly chosen by Michael Smuin as a founding member of Smuin Ballet. While dancing there, Smuin created several ballets on Gregory, including "Frankie and Johnny," and "Cyrano." He also appeared in the movie, "The Fantastics," which Smuin choreographed.

Amato's primary teacher and inspiration was New York City Ballet Dancer, Nolan T'Sani. He also studied under full scholarships at the San Francisco Ballet School and the Joffrey Ballet School in New York.

Amato competed and won the gold medal in the Fred Astaire International Ballroom Dance Competition. Despite his impressive ballet career, his personal highlight was his experience as the featured dancer at Carnegie Hall for the 100th Celebration of George Gershwin's birthday.

### **About Classical Ballet of California**

Our ballet studio was formed in 1998. California Youth Ballet is the 501(c)(3) nonprofit arm of California Classical Ballet consisting of teen and pre-teen dancers who are interested in furthering their pre-professional dance education. We provide a professional environment with highly skilled educators to ensure our dancers are given opportunities to perform on professional stages in programs that enhance their skills, challenge their growing abilities, and provide inspiration for future growth.

### **About Peninsula Ballet Theatre**

Peninsula Ballet Theatre was founded in 1967 by Dick Ford and Richard Gibson as the non-profit performing vehicle for students in their ballet school, then Peninsula Ballet School. In 1971 the first professional dancers trained outside the school were hired to form a separate permanent company, the Bay Area's second oldest professional ballet company in continuous operations. Gregory Amato took the helm as Artistic Director in early 2017, and since then has cultivated a company of eighteen professional dancers that performs a full season of wide-ranging repertory.

## **CALENDAR LISTING**

Dance, Theater, Performance

**WHO/WHAT:** Classical Ballet of California and Peninsula Ballet Theatre present *Giselle*

**WHEN:** Friday, June 21st, 2019 at 8pm; Saturday, June 22nd, 2019 at 8pm

**WHERE:** Terra Nova High School Theater, 1450 Terra Nova Blvd., Pacifica, CA 94044

**TICKETS:** \$15-30 online at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4253787>

More information at [www.classicalballetofcalifornia.com](http://www.classicalballetofcalifornia.com) [www.peninsulaballet.org/giselle](http://www.peninsulaballet.org/giselle)

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