

PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE



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Contact:

Chantell Ghosh
Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre
Director of Marketing & Communications
412.454.9117
cghosh@pittsburghballet.org

Treshea N. Wade
August Wilson Center for African American Culture
Manager, Marketing and Communications
412.338.8734
twade@augustwilsoncenter.org

PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE PLANS PREMIERE PERFORMANCE AT AUGUST WILSON CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE

(Pittsburgh, PA) – In 2011-12, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (PBT) and the August Wilson Center for African American Culture will begin a multiyear partnership that will include the Ballet's premiere performances in the August Wilson Center's 486-seat theatre, February 8-12, 2012. This partnership seeks to develop and provide world-class artistic content that will enrich the artistic substance of both institutions to the benefit of the Greater Pittsburgh community and beyond. The collaboration will include performances, education & cultivation and workshops & master classes.

Moving from the Byham Theater to The Center will provide PBT patrons with a more intimate experience at the ballet. For this premiere performance, PBT will present a contemporary mixed repertoire set to the music of Bach, Brahms and Beethoven. Following a theme of *Uncommon Baroque*, the production will be anchored by an original work set to the music of Bach, developed with acclaimed choreographer, Dwight Rhoden. The program will be rounded out by *Brahm's Quintet* a work of immense grace by Dennis Nahat and finally, Mark Morris' *Maelstrom*. Live music will be used for all three works, creating a new, intimate partnership between musicians and dancers, fitting for the venue and nature of productions.

PBT and The Center will jointly develop a program that will identify and foster professional training for qualified children and will augment the existing education and cultivation structures of both institutions. The organizations will also create workshops and master classes that enable PBT students to experience classes at The Center and vice versa.

The new program at The Center completes the presentation of a wide and varied 2011-2012 season for the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre which will include the magical *Peter Pan* from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, seasonal favorite, *The Nutcracker*, Hamburg Ballet's provocative adaptation of Tennessee William's *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Coppelia*.

About the August Wilson Center for African American Culture

Named for Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning playwright and Hill District native August Wilson, the

August Wilson Center for African American Culture engages regional and national audiences in its mission of preserving, presenting, interpreting, celebrating and shaping the art, culture and history of African Americans in Western Pennsylvania and people of African descent throughout the world.

Located in Downtown Pittsburgh's Cultural District, the multidisciplinary August Wilson Center is reflective of all aspects of African American culture. The Center's striking, two-story, green building houses seven exhibition galleries, a 486-seat theater for performances in all disciplines, a cultivation center, a café and gift shop, and multipurpose spaces for community programs and events. The Center is among a select few African American cultural institutions presenting visual and performing arts, the humanities and educational programs in a state-of-the-art venue.

The August Wilson Center – At The Center Of It All!

More information is available on The Center's website at AugustWilsonCenter.org and by calling 412.258.2700.