



Salwa Rizkalla, Artistic Director

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**FESTIVAL BALLETT THEATRE
Announces 2008-2009 Season - The Company's 20th Anniversary Season**

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. - Festival Ballet Theatre announces its most ambitious season to date! This, the company's 20th anniversary, season continues to build on its commitment to enriching the cultural experience of Orange County's dance audience. With reverence for masterpieces of the past and a clear focus on developing future tour de forces, FBT - one of Southern California's most vibrant and accomplished ballet companies - presents a varied repertoire of full-length classical ballets as well as contemporary works by some of the nation's critically acclaimed choreographers.

The company's 2008-2009 season kicks off September 20 and 21 at Irvine Barclay Theatre with a showcase of company premieres. A diverse program of contemporary ballets by the nation's most sought-after choreographers includes the world premiere of Brian Reeder's percussive neo-classical ode to the joy of movement, Paisiello Variations, as well as newly commissioned works by Melissa Barak and Lillian Barbeito. This opening program of the season also boasts Molly Lynch's A Midsummer Night's Dream, a bold updated rendition of Shakespeare's enchanting classic - complete with Puck magically soaring high above the stage! Guest artists include Karine Plantadit and Ian Carney, principal dancers from the Broadway musical Movin' Out, in Twyla Tharp's Shameless.

In keeping with holiday tradition and after a **sold-out series of performances in 2007**, Festival Ballet Theatre will present 13 performances of The Nutcracker at the Barclay December 12-24. Family-friendly and affordable, this professional production features spectacular guest artists from American Ballet Theatre - Irina Dvorovento and Maxim Beloserkovsky as well as Gillian Murphy and Gennadi Saveliev - FBT's professional company dancers, and exceptional young talent from across the Southland.

The 20th anniversary season will culminate with the beloved classical ballet, The Sleeping Beauty. A timeless love story, Tchaikovsky's masterpiece and FBT's heart-warming production brings to life fabled storybook favorites Princess Aurora, Puss & Boots, Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf...characters that remind us good always triumphs over evil. On April 4, 2009 at 2 p.m., FBT will present this enchanting classic in a one-hour, narrated version specially designed to introduce children to the beauty of ballet. April 4 at 7 p.m. and April 5 at 2 p.m., the company will perform the full-length rendition of the ageless masterpiece.

To order tickets:
Call Irvine Barclay Theatre box office: 949.854.4646
Online purchases: visit thebarclay.org or ticketmaster.com
(Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover accepted)

Download high-resolution images at: <http://press.thebarclay.org>

Irvine Barclay Theatre is located at 4242 Campus Drive

To receive a free brochure or learn more about Festival Ballet Theatre, go to festivalballet.org

Schedule of Events | 2008-2009

**Premieres and Repertoire
Contemporary Selections
Dynamic Works. Vibrant Dancing.**

Four Company Premieres.

Saturday, September 20 at 8 p.m. & Sunday, September 21 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$38 adult, \$33 senior/child/, \$19 student with valid ID

Program:

Brian Reeder	Paisiello Variations World Premiere
Melissa Barak	Newly Commissioned World Premiere
Lillian Barbeito	Newly Commissioned World Premiere
Molly Lynch	A Midsummer Night's Dream (Company Premiere)
Twyla Tharp	Shameless (performed by guest artists Karine Plantadit and Ian Carney, principal dancers from the Broadway musical Movin' Out)

The Nutcracker **Beauty. Pageantry. Tradition.**

December 12, 13, 19* & 20 at 7 p.m.

December 13, 20, 22* & 23 at 2 p.m.

December 14 & 21 at 1 p.m.; December 14* & 21 at 6 p.m.

Dec. 24 at 11 a.m.

Featuring special guest artists from American Ballet Theatre

Irina Dvorovenko & Maxim Beloserkovsky

Gillian Murphy & Gennadi Saveliev

Tickets: \$38 adult, \$33 senior/child/student
*\$100 Nutcracker Family Night (4 pack of tickets)

The Sleeping Beauty **Fairy Tale Romance. Old World Grandeur.** **Beloved Classical Ballet.**

Saturday, April 4 at 2 p.m. (Ballet for Children, 1-hour narrated rendition)

Tickets: \$20

Saturday, April 4 at 7 p.m. & Sunday, April 5 at 2 p.m.
(full-length production)

Tickets: \$38 adult, \$33 senior/child/student