

PRESS RELEASE

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BALLET BELLEVUE

Presents

Raymond Briggs

The Snowman™

(first production in the United States with live orchestra)

Bellevue, WA - A ballet inspired by the beloved children's book, *The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs, will be seen for the first time with live orchestra in the United States this Thanksgiving weekend when Ballet Bellevue opens the merry season November 24th and 25th plus a school show November 26th at The Theatre at Meydenbauer Center. The show also tours to Northshore Performing Arts Center in Bothell December 8th and 9th. Ballet Bellevue Orchestra conducted by Philip Tschopp, performs the enchanting music and lyrics of Howard Blake, as the story unfolds of a young boy and his snowman who investigate the world of people before taking off on a magical visit to the land of snow. Choreography is by Ballet Bellevue's new Artistic Director, Jennifer Porter.

The role of The Snowman is performed by guest artist, Oleg Gorboulev, in the November performances and by Kyle Johnson in the December shows. Ballet Bellevue company dancers, Caroline Burnett, Kara Dominick, Natasha Keeley, Alexa Kovalick, Ting Liu, Katrina Muser and Christina Stockdale perform as the beautiful Snow Princess, Jack Frost and all the winterland characters both naughty and nice. Saint Nicholas is expertly performed by Michael Wojack.

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The character of the little boy is played by Leo Malkin, and the boy soprano solo, “Walking in the Air,” is performed by Ben Flohr, chorister of the Northwest Boy Choir. Students of Ballet Bellevue School in their roles of rabbits, reindeer, snowmen and villagers enjoy the rare chance to share the stage with professional dancers and a live orchestra.

In both Bellevue and Bothell, Saturday performances are at 2 PM and 7:30 PM, and Sunday performances are at 2 PM. For tickets to Meydenbauer performances (\$17 student/senior, \$22 adult, \$27 VIP Seating, group discount for 10 or more \$2 off each ticket) call 206.325.6500 or visit www.ticketwindowonline.com. For the Northshore Performing Arts Center, contact Tickets West at 800.992.8499 or visit www.ticketwest.com. To reserve space at the November 26th school show (10:00 AM), call 425.455.1345 (tickets \$10 or \$8 for groups of 20 or more).

Guest artist, Oleg Gorboulev, in his third season dancing with Ballet Bellevue, is a member of the new Seattle Dance Project which opens in January 2008.

The ballet is based upon Raymond Briggs’ “The Snowman,” with original scenario by Howard Blake, Bill Alexander and Robert North, and orchestration by Howard Blake. Production is by arrangement with Snowman Enterprises Limited, Highbridge Music Limited, Faber Music Limited and Chester Music Limited.

Sponsors of *The Snowman* are 4 Culture, Microsoft Employee Matching Program, Bellevue Arts Commission, Standing Ovation, Movado and Lululemon Athletica.

For information visit www.balletbellevue.org or call 425.455.1345.

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