



**Performance Advisory
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 7, 2024**

WHO: Eugene Ballet

WHAT: *Peter Pan*

WHEN: May 17, 2024 at 7:30pm and May 18 and 19, 2024 at 2:00pm

WHERE: Silva Concert Hall, Hult Center for the Performing Arts, Eugene, OR

COST: \$25 – \$65, \$15 youth and college tickets with student ID

MORE INFO: <https://eugeneballet.org/performances/peter-pan>

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Eugene Ballet Invites You to the Magical World Premiere of Toni Pimble’s *Peter Pan*

Eugene, OR – Let your imagination take flight with Eugene Ballet as it closes the 2023/24 Season with a spectacular new production of *Peter Pan*. Choreographed by acclaimed Artistic Director Toni Pimble, this magic-filled world premiere ballet runs May 17-19, 2024, at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts.

Orchestra Next, celebrating their 100th performance with Eugene Ballet at the Hult Center, plays a newly commissioned 96-minute score by Kenji Bunch live at all three performances. This enchanting composition underscores the fantastical journey through Neverland, capturing the timeless spirit of J.M. Barrie’s tale of the boy who will never grow up. Portland-based composer Bunch said of his latest work, “This score, inspired by my own children, is designed to evoke the playful and imaginative world of childhood, free from the mundane concerns of grown-up life. It’s been both a challenge and a delight to craft music that resonates with all ages.”

Pimble’s *Peter Pan* is a delightful adaptation of the classic story, with new costumes and choreography, and a visually stunning aerial ballet that promises to captivate the audience. Peter Pan, Tinkerbell, Wendy, John, and Michael soar across the stage, in aerial flying choreography, all under the guidance of industry legends **Flying by Foy**. Pimble, sharing her experience of venturing into this new choreographic territory, noted that “this will be the first time I have choreographed an extensive flying scene. The initial scene involves Peter teaching Wendy, John, and Michael to fly and will be the most complicated with four dancers in the air simultaneously. A *pas de deux* for Peter and Wendy flying over the lagoon will have a romantic, dreamy quality.”

In addition to the mesmerizing choreography and music, the production features extraordinary new costumes designed and built by Eugene Ballet’s Costume Manager Axel Dāzee. Highlights include a tango-inspired Mr. Crocodile, a fluffy Nana the Dog, Peter’s mischievous shadow, and a nightgown for Wendy designed for her aerial adventures. However, Dāzee’s most significant task was reimagining the Tiger Lilies, transforming them from problematic representations into enchanting floral ensembles. “The portrayal of Indigenous people within the fantasy world of Neverland is inappropriate and harmful,” explained Dāzee. “We’ve shifted the Tiger Lily

character to embody the beauty of the actual tiger lily flower, complete with sculpted wire and fabric petals, airbrushed details, crystals, and coordinating headpieces.” This change underscores Eugene Ballet’s commitment to cultural sensitivity and the importance of dismissing characters that perpetuate cultural appropriation, ensuring that the reimagined performance leaves the audience immersed in a truly enchanting theatrical experience.

Eugene Ballet’s production of *Peter Pan* is an interactive experience—audience members have the chance to participate in the adventures, adding an unforgettable layer to their theater experience. It’s a perfect outing for the entire family, as the touching story and action-packed adventures of *Peter Pan* leave you with cherished memories.

“Kenji’s original score for *Peter Pan* is an adventure all its own. It’s exhilarating, hilarious, surprisingly emotive, and brilliant. Paired with Toni’s masterful choreographic storytelling, the jaw-dropping sets and costumes, the thrilling dancers on stage, the vitality of Orchestra Next in the pit, and the best crew EVER, this production is one for the ages. You don’t need to wait for a world-class traveling show to come through Eugene to be inspired - we’re already here,” expresses Brian McWhorter, Music Director of Orchestra Next.

Peter Pan is at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, May 17 at 7:30 pm, and Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19 at 2:00 pm. Fly away to a place where the magic is real and the wonders never cease!

Tickets—priced from \$25 to \$65, with \$15 youth and college tickets (with valid ID)—are on sale now at the Hult Center Ticket Office, online at hultcenter.org, and by phone at 541-682-5000.

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