



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Annette Johnson
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The Little Mermaid, Dubbed "An Underwater Lion King," To Tour Southern California

Inland Pacific Ballet's critically acclaimed production of *The Little Mermaid* will tour four southern California theaters during March 2010. The Company will present a total of 10 performances beginning March 6-7 at the Haugh Performing Arts Center in Glendora, followed by March 13-14 at Bridges Auditorium in Claremont; March 20-21 at the Lewis Family Playhouse in Rancho Cucamonga; and March 27-28 at the Warner Grand Theater in San Pedro.

Hailed by critics as "...visually stunning... an underwater *Lion King*," where "...puppetry and dancing combine to create a magical ocean world," *The Little Mermaid* was premiered in 2002, and launched IPB's series for young audiences featuring original ballets adapted from adventure-filled stories.

Following a tremendously successful 2009 tour of *The Little Mermaid* to the southwest, this is the professional company's first southern California regional tour of the popular family show.

"The Little Mermaid creates magic whenever we perform it," says Artistic Director Victoria Koenig. "Audiences are captivated by the underwater feeling and the sheer beauty of the spectacle. The universal appeal of the story helps young audiences connect with the characters. This is by no means a "kiddy" show, but rather as a brilliant artistic collaboration it moves audiences beyond the Disney version and allows them to experience the story in a whole new way. Having grown up in southern California, it's a great feeling to be bringing this special show to new audiences in the region."

Adapted from Hans Christian Anderson's original story made popular by Disney animation, *The Little Mermaid* tells the story of a young princess and prince from two very different worlds. The mermaid princess leaves her underwater paradise and meets a handsome prince on the surface. As the story continues she has to decide how much she is willing to sacrifice for her new found love. Unlike the dark ending of the original story, IPB has created a surprise ending that adds to the enjoyment of the traditional tale.

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Together with a creative dream-team, IPB brings *The Little Mermaid* to the stage. Portland-based choreographers Daniel Kirk and Eric Skinner utilize innovative cirque du Soleil style aerial technology to create the feeling of a real underwater environment, with lighting design by Greta Stockwell adding to the illusion.

Internationally-acclaimed designer Nancy Seruto's sets – include a live shipwreck and a glittering coral reef. Costume designers Craig Sheppard and Jeanne Nolden have created a spectacular blend of ornate costumes and delightful puppet sea creatures. And, IPB artistic director Victoria Koenig conceived a lush, sweeping sound collage of great composers, more like a cinematic score than traditional ballet music, and including Ravel, Debussy, and Dvorak, among others.

Featured dancers for *The Little Mermaid* are Jennifer Friel as the Little Mermaid, Jonathan Sharp as the Prince, and Stephanie Orza as the Sea Witch.

Tickets start at \$25 with child, senior and group discounts available. For information and to order tickets for any of the performances, visit www.mermaidlive.com.

Inland Pacific Ballet is a non-profit organization, with support provided in part by The Ahmanson Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, the California Arts Council, Target, the Haskell Fund, Sempra Energy, and individual donors.

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Inland Pacific Ballet will also present four special outreach performances for K-12 school students on March 5, 11, 12 and 19 at 10:00 a.m., featuring abbreviated versions of the ballet and educational activities. Outreach tickets are priced at \$7.00. For outreach information, contact Lynn Klug at (909) 482-1590 or e-mail lynn@ipballet.org.

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PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

March 6, 2010 8:00 p.m.

March 7, 2010 2:00 p.m.

Haugh Performing Arts Center, Citrus College
1000 W. Foothill Blvd., Glendora, CA 91741
Information: 626-963-9411 www.haughpac.com

March 13, 2010 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

March 14, 2010 2:00 p.m.

Bridges Auditorium, Pomona College
450 N. College Way, Claremont, CA 91711
Information: (909) 607-1139 www.mermaidlive.com

March 20, 2010 3:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

March 21, 2010 2:00 p.m.

Lewis Family Playhouse, Victoria Gardens Cultural Center
12505 Cultural Center Drive, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739
Information: 909-477-2752 www.lewisfamilyplayhouse.com

March 27, 2010 2:00 p.m.

March 28, 2010 2:00 p.m.

Warner Grand Theatre
478 W. 6th Street, San Pedro, CA 90731
Information: 310-433-8774 www.gspo.com

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