



## PRESS RELEASE

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### *Inland Pacific Ballet Opens 17th Season with Spectacular Dracula, Swan Lake and World Premiere of The Other Side*

**October 22 - 23, 2011**

Inspired by the coming Halloween season, Inland Pacific Ballet opens its 17th season with three blockbuster works: spectacular highlights from the ballet classic *Swan Lake*, the mesmerizing castle scene from its acclaimed original adaptation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and the world premiere of *The Other Side*, a riveting new contemporary ballet by up-and-coming choreographer Stephanie Orza. Tickets are available for three performances only on October 22 and 23 at the majestic Bridges Auditorium in Claremont.

According to IPB's Artistic Director Victoria Koenig, the *Halloween Spectacular* and the entire season offer amazing dancers and a memorable experience. "We put together an exciting season that offers new work, dramatic stagings of familiar ballets, and our annual holiday favorite, *The Nutcracker*," states Koenig. "Our Inland Empire audiences are amazing, and we hope everyone will come out to see each show. There's something for everyone!"

#### **DRACULA**

Inland Pacific Ballet's inspired take on the Vampire myth explores the mysteries of the undead and the struggle between the forces of good and evil. Described as "good enough to sink your teeth into" and "featuring brilliant choreography with a dark and sexy edge" by a local reviewer, *Dracula* awes the audience with its intricate choreography by San Francisco-based Arturo Fernandez, spectacular sets by award-winning scenic designer Nancy Seruto, and a lush musical score featuring composers Sergei Prokofiev, Camille Saint-Saens.

Among the memorable cast of characters are hauntingly costumed dancers including three ethereal vampire brides, ghostly minions of "undead" girls, and the mysterious, thirsty Dracula himself.

Returning as Count Dracula is Jonathan Sharp, formerly with the Pennsylvania and Boston Ballets. Sharp is a veteran of five Broadway shows, numerous television roles, and has also been a guest artist with LA Opera and the Pasadena Playhouse.

#### **SWAN LAKE**

The evening also includes highlights from *Swan Lake*, the ballet featured in the movie *Black Swan*. *Swan Lake* features Principal Ballerina Allynne Noelle in the dual roles of the White Swan (Odette) and Black Swan (Odile) along with Sharp as the doomed Prince, and Brandon J as the evil sorcerer Von Rothbart.

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With its extravagant setting in a gothic forest and sweeping music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, *Swan Lake* tells the story of Odette, a beautiful princess turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse.

IPB's Jill Voznick and Clinton Rothwell have woven together classic scenes from this dramatic ballet which include the famous Act II featuring the White Swan Queen and her corps de ballet of Swan Maidens, and the Black Swan pas de deux. "The dances for Odette/Odile and the Prince are virtuoso pieces that require an extremely accomplished ballerina to perform them both in one night," according to Ballet Mistress Jill Voznick.

"We are thrilled to have Allynne Noelle making her debut in this role that demands both a more vulnerable, lyrical style for the White Swan and the complete opposite for the bold, sensual, deceptive Black Swan." Noelle, who was a Principal Dancer with IPB from 2000 to 2003, has also performed with Ballet Pacifica, Miami City Ballet, and Los Angeles Ballet.

### ***THE OTHER SIDE***

Premiering her third original ballet in just two short years is Stephanie Orza, former Principal dancer for IPB turned choreographer. *The Other Side* is a haunting work inspired by a strong emotional response to a memorial sculpture Orza saw at a San Francisco museum, however, the movements and formations in this latest work go beyond the figures in the sculpture to explore the path from this earth to the other side.

"The beauty and deep sadness of the memorial hit me hard as a child and have stayed with me, but it is the battle that the soul may have to go through to get to the other side that I am most interested in revealing," states Orza.

*The Other Side* features five extraordinary female dancers in six dynamic movements and is a physical tour de force as well as an intense emotional journey of souls passing from this life to the next.

Adding to the gothic ambience of the evening and the old-world splendor of the Bridges Auditorium setting, audience members are encouraged to attend in costume.

*Halloween Spectacular* tickets are priced at \$38 for all Premium seats, \$28 for Adults, \$24 for Seniors and \$20 for Children, and are available online at [www.ipballet.com](http://www.ipballet.com) or from Bridges Auditorium by calling (909) 607-1139. Bridges Auditorium is located at 450 North College Way, Claremont.

In addition to *the Halloween Spectacular*, IPB's 2011-2012 season includes ten performances of *The Nutcracker* in December, and three performances of *Cinderella* in April 2012.

Founded in 1994 by Southern California natives Victoria Koenig and Kevin Myers, the Inland Pacific Ballet has become one of southern California's cultural jewels. Its mission is to build and sustain a professional ballet company of national stature in the Inland Empire of Southern California, committed to producing exquisitely staged productions of full-length classic story ballets as well as presenting the best in contemporary choreography.

For more information about Inland Pacific Ballet, visit the website at [www.ipballet.org](http://www.ipballet.org).

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