

Inland Pacific Ballet

Victoria Koenig, Artistic Director



Press Release

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BALLET'S GREATEST LOVE STORY GISELLE COMES TO LIFE IN INLAND PACIFIC BALLET'S MAGNIFICENT PRODUCTION

Claremont, CA
January 13, 2007
Giselle

Inland Pacific Ballet will revive its **brilliant production of *Giselle* February 3-11, just in time for Valentine's Day.** Not performed in the Inland Empire since 2000, this living classic is the **ultimate Romantic Ballet** and has enthralled audiences since its first performance in Paris in 1841. Inland Pacific Ballet's lavish production features dramatic staging by **Janek Schergen**, former Ballet Master with the Royal Swedish Ballet, and **Victoria Koenig**, Inland Pacific Ballet's Artistic Director.

Inland Pacific Ballet's Principal Dancers **Sarah Spradlin** and **Christopher Bonomo**, always **audience favorites**, will re-create their roles of **Giselle and Count Albrecht**, which they premiered with IPB in the Company's first production of *Giselle* in 1999. These two extraordinary dancers have their own love story, having met and fallen in love while dancing together at Inland Pacific Ballet. Now as husband and wife, they bring a special magic to *Giselle's* leading roles. **Stephanie Orza** will debut in the role of **Myrtha, Queen of the Wilis**, and **Eric Shah** will re-create his original role as **Hilarian**, Giselle's scorned suitor.

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Giselle, ballet's greatest love story, is a perfect way to treat your Valentine.

Performances will extend over two weekends **February 3 & 4 and February 10 & 11 at the historic Bridges Auditorium, The Claremont Colleges.**

The Story of Giselle

Giselle tells the story of a beautiful but fragile peasant girl's betrayal by the dashing Count Albrecht and her death and transformation into the supernatural world of the Wilis – ghostly dancing maidens, as dangerous as they are irresistible who rise from their graves and dance in the moonlight, their vengeful mission to trap all men who venture into their realm and dance them to death. The power of Giselle's true love and forgiveness ultimately saves the life of her repentant Albrecht, as they are re-united from beyond the grave.

A Feast for the Eyes

Inland Pacific Ballet's ***Giselle*** is one of the Company's most beautiful productions. **Award winning scenic designer Daniel Nyiri** created the **magnificent sets which capture the storybook enchantment of Giselle's country village**, complete with thatched roof houses, and convey the **mystery and supernatural eeriness of the Wilis' forest domain**. *Giselle's* exquisite costumes were designed by Ricky Lizalde and Jeanne Nolden.

Meet the Performers

Audience members are encouraged to stay for autograph and photo opportunities with the performers following each show. Part of Inland Pacific Ballet's Audience Development initiative, this memorable experience leaves a lasting impression on younger audiences and helps them engage in a lifelong enjoyment of the arts.

Bridges Auditorium: A Magnificent Opera House

Giselle will be presented at the **historic Mabel Shaw Bridges Auditorium, the Claremont Colleges, where IPB is Company in Residence**. Those who have not yet experienced the splendor of Bridges Auditorium are in for a treat. This Historic Grand Opera

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House with its **brehtaking marble entrance hall, vaulting columns and sweeping staircases seats 2400. The largest and most elegant theater in the Inland Empire, Bridges Auditorium** boasts a gold-leafed hand-painted ceiling depicting a star-scape of mythological creatures. Why drive to Los Angeles or Orange County? Bridges is conveniently close to all Inland Empire communities and **parking is free.**

Expanded Website: www.ipballet.org

For ease in purchasing your tickets, Inland Pacific Ballet has **expanded its website** to include an **easy on-line ticket ordering system.** The website also displays beautiful photographs of Inland Pacific Ballet's dancers, as well as featuring Dancer Biographies.

Inland Pacific Ballet's Mission

Founded in 1994, the Inland Pacific Ballet has quickly become one of Southern California's cultural jewels. **The Inland Pacific Ballet's mission is to build and sustain a professional ballet company of national stature in the Inland Empire of southern California.** IPB is committed to producing exquisitely staged productions of full-length classic story ballets as well as presenting the best in contemporary choreography. Through creative marketing and an extensive outreach program, IPB works to introduce new audiences to the magic of the ballet and to make the experience more available and accessible to all. IPB is also committed to the continued nurturing of new talent, providing an essential training ground for serious young dancers.

Inland Pacific Ballet: A Cultural Gem Serving the Inland Empire for Over a Decade

As a treasured cultural institution in the Inland Empire, **Inland Pacific Ballet enters its Spectacular 12th Season.** With attendance averaging **20,000 patrons annually,** an **Educational Outreach Program** that has served over **100,000 children** in its 12 years of programming, and an impressive artistic profile, IPB has become a cultural staple in the Inland Empire. The Company has widespread community support throughout the region and has

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earned **funding from leading philanthropic Foundations, including The James Irvine Foundation The Ahmanson Foundation, The Weingart Foundation and The Disneyland Resort Cast Community Fund.** Growing steadily in stature and reputation in its 12-year history, IPB has added **immeasurably to the cultural life of the Inland Empire.**

WHAT: Giselle

WHERE: Mabel Shaw Bridges Auditorium
The Claremont Colleges
450 North College Way
Claremont, CA 91711

WHEN: Saturday, February 3, 7:30PM
Sunday, February 4, 2:00 PM
Saturday, February 10, 7:30 PM
Sunday, February 11, 2:00 PM

TICKETS: Tickets on sale through the Bridges Auditorium Box Office:

Telephone Ticket Hotline: (909) 607-1139.

Box Office Hours for Phone Orders/ In Person Orders M-F 10:00am-4:00pm

On-line Orders: www.GiselleLive.com

PRICES: Tickets start at \$25. Children 50% off selected seats.
Senior, Group discounts. Student rush.

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