



Oakland Ballet Company

Celebrating Dance for Over 45 Years

Graham Lustig, Artistic Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Lisa Mezzacappa

Lisa Mezzacappa Projects: Arts Programming and Communications

510-708-2530 // mezzacappa.projects@gmail.com

PHOTOS: <http://oaklandballet.org/wp/photos/>

OAKLAND BALLET COMPANY PRESENTS SPRING GALA, "IMAGINE!"

Evening includes silent auction, season preview performances, and dessert with Company dancers

**Saturday April 27, 2013, 7:00-9:30pm
Kaiser Center Lakeside Theater, Oakland CA**

Oakland, CA, March 11, 2013 – Oakland Ballet Company presents its annual fundraiser gala event, "Imagine!," Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at the Kaiser Center Lakeside Theater in downtown Oakland. The evening, emceed by Cheryl Jennings of ABC7, includes a champagne and hors d'oeuvres reception; a special preview performance featuring excerpts of works in the company's spring season; dessert with Company dancers; and a silent auction featuring luxury items, local services, and – back by popular demand – an opportunity to appear in *Graham Lustig's The Nutcracker* in December 2013. Against the backdrop of beautiful Lake Merritt, guests have an opportunity to rub elbows with area dancers and fellow arts patrons alike, and participate in Oakland's thriving arts culture by supporting Oakland Ballet Company's mission of keeping the tradition of ballet exciting, vibrant and accessible. The fundraiser supports Oakland Ballet's annual *Nutcracker* production; its ongoing educational community outreach programs; and the 2013 spring repertory season, *Diaghilev Imagery*. Oakland Mayor Jean Quan serves as Honorary Chair. Tickets for the intimate evening are \$100, of which \$50 is tax-deductible, available online at www.oaklandballet.org, by phone at 510-893-3132 or by mailing a check to Oakland Ballet Company at 2201 Broadway, Suite 206, Oakland CA 94612. The Kaiser Center Lakeside Theater is located at 300 Lakeside Dr. #206, Oakland CA.

"On behalf of Artistic Director, Graham Lustig and the Oakland Ballet Board of Directors, I am pleased to offer members of the community the opportunity to participate in the success of the company and invest in local performing arts," says Roz Perazzo, President and Chair of the Board of Directors. "Affordable ticket prices for both the *Imagine!* Gala and *Diaghilev Imagery* production make our programs accessible to a broad range of people in the East Bay community, a cornerstone of Oakland Ballet's mission."

[more]

2201 Broadway, Suite 206 • Oakland, California 94612
(866) 711-6037 / (510) 893-3132 • info@oaklandballet.org • www.oaklandballet.org
Federal tax id #94-3395450

ABOUT OAKLAND BALLET'S SPRING SEASON, DIAGHILEV IMAGERY

Oakland Ballet Company's 2013 spring season, *Diaghilev Imagery*, is a fresh take on tradition that ties the exceptional artistry of the Bay Area dance community to some of the most inspiring masterworks of classical ballet. The program features three intimate new ballets by acclaimed choreographers **Amy Seiwert**, **Robert Moses** (both world premieres), and company Artistic Director **Graham Lustig** (West Coast premiere), that draw inspiration from Sergei Diaghilev's iconic Ballets Russes while celebrating Oakland Ballet's long history of preserving the legacy of that esteemed institution. Each choreographer re-imagines works originally commissioned by Diaghilev – who in his day brought together some of the greatest composers, choreographers, dancers and artists for new collaborations – and it is in that spirit of creation and innovation that Seiwert, Moses and Lustig offer exciting new choreography with modern interpretations of *Les Biches*, *Le Spectre de la Rose* and *Pulcinella*, set to the original music scores.

Performances are Friday May 10 and Saturday May 11, 2013 at the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, Oakland. More information on Oakland Ballet's spring repertory production is online at www.oaklandballet.org.

ABOUT OAKLAND BALLET COMPANY

For nearly fifty years, Oakland Ballet Company has maintained its commitment to inspiring the East Bay community and beyond by keeping the tradition of ballet exciting, vibrant and accessible, mainly through the presentation of works of the Diaghilev repertoire and modern masterpieces. Oakland Ballet was founded in 1965 by Ronn Guidi, and gained international recognition through its historical reconstructions of ballets from the legendary Ballets Russes of Serge Diaghilev; its mounting of classic works of Americana; and its creation of innovative contemporary choreography.

In 2000, Ronn Guidi retired and Karen Brown succeeded him as Artistic Director. Brown continued Oakland Ballet's commitment to performing great works of classical ballet, and focused especially on the work of local and contemporary choreographers. Oakland Ballet closed in 2006, but was revived in 2007 with Guidi returning as Artistic Director. Since its rebirth, Oakland Ballet Company has brought its classic mix of drama and family classics to the Oakland and East Bay communities and continues a longstanding partnership with Michael Morgan and the Oakland East Bay Symphony.

A cornerstone of Oakland Ballet Company's legacy has been engagement with the community, from school visits by dancers to performances at Children's Fairyland and Oakland's Children's Hospital, and educational programs through partnerships with the Oakland Unified School District and Community Access Tickets Service. In 2010, the Oakland Ballet Company welcomed Graham Lustig as Artistic Director. Lustig's career as a dancer, artistic director and choreographer parallels Oakland Ballet's tradition of presenting historically vibrant work while championing new choreography.

Oakland Ballet Company's spring season is supported by the Jerome Robbins Foundation and the Fleishhacker Foundation.

CALENDAR EDITOR, PLEASE LIST:

WHAT: Oakland Ballet Company's Spring Gala, "Imagine!"
WHEN: Saturday April 27, 7:00-9:30pm
WHERE: Kaiser Center Auditorium, 300 Lakeside Drive, Oakland CA
TICKETS: Tickets start at \$100 (\$50 of which is tax deductible) and are available online at www.oaklandballet.org, by phone at 510-893-3132, or by mailing in a check to Oakland Ballet Company at 2201 Broadway, Suite 206, Oakland, CA 94612

###