

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contacts:

Robert Lowman

Chloé Watson

**PENINSULA BALLET THEATRE PRESENTS  
*CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS:*  
*A CHILDREN'S FANTASY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY***

*Peninsula Ballet Theatre, San Mateo  
April 27-28, 2019 at 11:30am and 2:30pm*

*Tickets: \$30-35*

[www.peninsulaballet.org](http://www.peninsulaballet.org)



SAN MATEO, CA—Peninsula Ballet Theatre is proud to present *Carnival of the Animals: A Children's Fantasy for the Whole Family*. Artistic Director Gregory Amato's adaptation follows the adventures of an extraordinary chick who is excluded by the other critters on her farm and dreams of fantastic creatures who help reveal her true destiny. Supplementing Camille Saint-Saëns's whimsical score with delightful melodies and featuring dancers of the Peninsula Ballet Theatre company and conservatory, this one-act story ballet will enchant children and adults alike. All audience members are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite animal;

children in costume will have a chance to win a prize in our #pbtcarnival Instagram photo contest.

### **About Artistic Director Gregory Amato**

Gregory Amato has a wide breadth of experience in the international world of ballet. During his four years with Ballet Du Nord in France, Mr. Amato performed in 53 countries. These included performances before the Queen of England, two presidents, numerous ambassadors, dignitaries and prime ministers.

He was tapped by New York City Ballet principal dancer Edward Villella to join him as a founding member of Villella's Miami City Ballet. After relocating to the Bay Area, he was similarly chosen by Michael Smuin as a founding member of Smuin Ballet. While dancing there, Smuin created several ballets on Gregory, including "Frankie and Johnny," and "Cyrano." He also appeared in the movie, "The Fantastics," which Smuin choreographed.

Amato's primary teacher and inspiration was New York City Ballet Dancer, Nolan T'Sani. He also studied under full scholarships at the San Francisco Ballet School and the Joffrey Ballet School in New York.

Amato competed and won the gold medal in the Fred Astaire International Ballroom Dance Competition. Despite his impressive ballet career, his personal highlight was his experience as the featured dancer at Carnegie Hall for the 100th Celebration of George Gershwin's birthday.

### **About Peninsula Ballet Theatre**

Peninsula Ballet Theatre was founded in 1967 by Dick Ford and Richard Gibson as the non-profit performing vehicle for students in their ballet school, then Peninsula Ballet School. In 1971 the first professional dancers trained outside the school were hired to form a separate permanent company, the Bay Area's second oldest professional ballet company in continuous operations. Gregory Amato took the helm as Artistic Director in early 2017, and since then has cultivated a company of eighteen professional dancers that performs a full season of wide-ranging repertory.

## **CALENDAR LISTING**

Dance, Theater, Performance

**WHO/WHAT:** Peninsula Ballet Theatre presents *Carnival of the Animals: A Children's Fantasy for the Whole Family*

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 11:30am and 2:30pm; Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 11:30am and 2:30pm

**WHERE:** Peninsula Ballet Theatre, 1880 S. Grant St., San Mateo, CA 94402

**TICKETS:** \$30-35 plus Eventbrite fee at the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peninsula-ballet-theatre-presents-carnival-of-the-animals-tickets-57664394757>

\$35 at the door as available.

For more information visit [www.peninsulaballet.org/carnival-of-the-animals](http://www.peninsulaballet.org/carnival-of-the-animals)

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