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**PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE SENDS AUDIENCES A SPECIAL
VALENTINE WITH A WORLD PREMIERE FEATURING B.E. TAYLOR**

*PBT presents Forever Love, featuring Two Premieres including Fluctuating Hemlines
Christo Braun's innovative artwork, using PPG resins, will be integrated into Forever Love*

PITTSBURGH, PA (January 2007) – Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre sends audiences a very special Valentine's Day with *Forever Love*, featuring *Fluctuating Hemlines* and a World Premiere with B.E. Taylor and his band. Sponsored by PPG, the love-themed production is scheduled for four performances February 14-17 in the intimate setting of the Byham Theater. Audiences will be treated to two distinctly unique premieres, with a live performance by Pittsburgh music icon B.E. Taylor and his band, featuring his love-themed hits and touching ballads. Also integrated into the production will be innovative artwork utilizing PPG resins and created by Pittsburgh-based artist Christo Braun.

Making its Pittsburgh Premiere is Septime Webre's *Fluctuating Hemlines*. The contemporary production illustrates the Washington Ballet Artistic Director's raw and energetic style and demonstrates ballet with a bite. Inspired by Camille Paglia's book, *Sexual Personae*, Webre created *Fluctuating Hemlines*, which begins with a party scene where women are dressed in trendy dresses and bouffant wigs while men are dressed in business suits. During the ballet, the dancers alter their "hemlines" to display different costumes of flesh-tone leotards, symbolizing the act of exposing their inner selves. The high energy ballet is performed to the bold percussive sounds of Robert Benford. Since becoming Washington Ballet's artistic director in 1999, Webre has received a number of fellowships and has been honored by Young Audiences of the District of Columbia. He was a former member of the Board of Directors of Dance/USA and is currently on the board of the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington. Webre's works can be found in the repertoires of companies across the country, including Pacific Northwest Ballet, Ballet Austin, and Atlanta Ballet.

World Premiere with B.E. Taylor and his band

Internationally-recognized for its creation of a wide variety of new works, PBT's newest World Premiere production features a live performance with B.E. Taylor and his band and blends his unique vocal styling with the contemporary choreography of Lauri Stallings. Taylor has long been a favorite on the local and national music scene, recording three major albums in six years for national recording labels. He had both regional and Billboard Top 100 hits including "Vitamin L" and "Karen". Taylor has also performed on several national commercial spots and wrote, performed and produced for the cable TV show *Light Music*, which won the award for Best Contemporary Christian/Mainstream Video Show in 1993, 1994 and 1995. He has been a featured performer with the Pittsburgh Symphony, the "Fred Roger's Tribute," KDKA Radio "Newsical," and The Wheeling Symphony Orchestra. The *B.E. Taylor Christmas Concert* at Heinz Hall has sold out annually for years, becoming one of Pittsburgh's favorite holiday traditions.

Lauri Stallings, a graduate of Point Park University, is a member of Cirque du Soleil's artistic team and is the Resident Choreographer of Atlanta Ballet. She has created new works for Hubbard St. Dance Chicago, Atlanta Ballet, and American Repertory Ballet among others. Currently she is collaborating with Hip-Hop star Antwan "Big Boi" Patton on *big*, a new work for Atlanta Ballet debuting in April 2008. Stallings began her

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Pg. 2—PBT’s *Forever Love*—featuring Pittsburgh Premiere *Fluctuating Hemlines* and a World Premiere with B.E. Taylor

performance career with Cleveland San Jose Ballet, and has performed with BalletMet, Canada’s Ballet British Columbia and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. She has won several awards, including the Ruth Page Award for Choreography, Cliff Dweller Award, Chicago Tribune “Chicagoan of the Year” in 2004, a 2006 Choreographic Fellowship from the Illinois Arts Council, and was featured as one of *Dance Magazine*’s “25 to Watch” in 2007. Stallings was also on the movement research team for Julie Taymor’s film “Across the Universe,” which was released nationally in Fall 2007.

Forever Love also features the creative work of Pittsburgh-based artist Christo Braun, which will be integrated into the performance setting. Braun, who moved to Pittsburgh last year from San Francisco, creates his works using PPG resins over mirrors and stainless steel backgrounds. Kristin Farr, of California’s KQED Arts and Culture, said Braun’s “successful manipulation of fluctuating media sets him apart from other artists.” Since moving to Pittsburgh, Braun’s works have been presented at the Elan Gallery in Sewickley, with new works being displayed from September to October 2008.

Tickets for *Forever Love* are \$20.50-\$88.50 and can be purchased at Theater Square Box Office, by calling 412-456-6666, or by visiting www.pbt.org. For group rates and special events, please call 412-281-0360 or email group_sales@pittsburghballet.org.

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