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### CONNECTICUT BALLET ANNOUNCES 2008-2009 SEASON

Stamford and Hartford, CT...Connecticut Ballet's 27<sup>th</sup> season will include plenty of variety for ballet lovers and dance enthusiasts statewide. Artistic Director Brett Raphael has announced that the company will present two mixed bills of one-act ballets, and two full-lengths, including a new production of the full-length *Romeo and Juliet* and a revival of the company's *Nutcracker*, a war-horse production which saw over 350 performances throughout Connecticut and New England during the 80's and 90's.

The season kicks off with the company's new production of *Romeo and Juliet* staged by Artistic Director Brett Raphael to the famous score by Sergei Prokofiev and featuring international stars Cecilia Kerche and Vitor Luiz of the Municipal Ballet de Rio de Janeiro. The production will open **October 25-26 at The Bushnell's Belding Theater in Hartford**, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, travels to **Danbury High School**, 32 Clapboard Hill Road, Danbury, for one performance only on **October 28<sup>th</sup>** and finishes its run, **November 1-2 at the Palace Theatre, Stamford Center for the Arts, 61 Atlantic Street, in Stamford.**

The company's revival of *The Nutcracker* will be a co-production with Granby Education Foundation in cooperation with Granby Public Schools, **Friday-Saturday, December 12-13, at Granby High School**, 315 Salmon Brook Street, Granby. Joining the professional cast will be a cast of 75 young people from Granby and surrounding towns. Proceeds from the company's Granby engagement will benefit the Granby Education Foundation. Immediately following the Granby engagement, Connecticut Ballet's dancers will guest in Brett Raphael's production of *The Nutcracker* for Ballet Theatre Company of West Hartford, **December 17-21 at Saint Joseph College**, 1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford. Joining the cast of Ballet Theatre Company student dancers will be forty students from Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts, Hartford performing arts magnet school.

The season culminates with *New Ballet Fest*, a program of world premieres by four of today's most innovative and distinguished choreographers. The program will be performed on **Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at a Hartford venue to be announced** and then repeated on **Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at Rich Forum**, Stamford Center for the Arts, 307 Atlantic Street, Stamford. Called "...a company diverse ethnicities, a rarity in ballet," by the *Hartford Courant*, this program should not disappoint as a showcase for the company's range and artistic excellence.

Tickets for *Romeo and Juliet* will go on sale on September 1st, tickets for the *Nutcracker* go on sale on October 1<sup>st</sup>, and tickets for *New Ballet Fest* go on sale on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Underwriting support for the 2008-2009 season has been provided in part by Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, the City of Stamford, Xerox Foundation, and the Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation.

For ticket information about the 2008-2009 season, contact 203-964-1211 or 860-293-1039, or visit [www.connecticutballet.com](http://www.connecticutballet.com).