

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2008

Contact: Judie Clark, Director of Marketing
Phone: 203.964.1211 Stamford, 860.293.1039 Hartford
Email: ctballet@ix.netcom.com

CONNECTICUT BALLET OPENS 27TH SEASON WITH *ROMEO & JULIET*

Stamford and Hartford, CT...Connecticut Ballet's 27th season will open with a new production of Shakespeare's classic love story, *Romeo and Juliet*, staged by Artistic Director Brett Raphael to the famous score by Sergei Prokofiev and featuring Latin America's most sought-after ballet couple, Cecilia Kerche and Vitor Luiz from the Teatro Municipal of Rio de Janeiro. The production opens **October 25 (7:30pm) & 26 (2:00pm)** at **The Bushnell's Belding Theater**, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, travels to **Danbury High School**, 32 Clapboard Hill Road, Danbury, for one performance only on **October 28th (7:00pm)** and finishes its run, **November 1 (7:30pm) & 2 (2:00pm)** at the **Palace Theatre, Stamford Center for the Arts**, 61 Atlantic Street, in Stamford. Production sponsors include Connecticut Public Television, Greater Hartford Arts Council, Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation, and Xerox Foundation.

The production marks the first time the company will open its season in Hartford and it follows Connecticut Ballet's successful first appearance at the Riverfront Recapture Festival last month. "We are delighted to be a part of the cultural life of Hartford County and Fairfield County, bringing these classic ballets to an ever-larger audience," commented Artistic Director & Founder Brett Raphael. Miss Kerche and Mr. Luiz starred in Connecticut Ballet's 2007 production of *The Sleeping Beauty*, and will return to dance the lead roles in a partnership which harkens back to the days of Margot Fonteyn, then a senior ballerina, and her young bravura partner, Rudolph Nureyev.

Tickets for *Romeo and Juliet* at The Bushnell are \$45 & \$28 (plus \$2.50 theatre restoration fee), \$20 & \$12.50 at Danbury High School, and \$50, \$35, and \$25 (plus \$5.00 theater service charge) at the Palace Theatre in Stamford. A special student/senior half-priced rush ticket is available on the day of performance only. All venues are completely handicapped accessible. An opening night party will follow the premiere on October 25th and a gala Masquerade Ballet will follow the Stamford premiere on November 1st. For gala ticket information, please call Connecticut Ballet at 203-964-1211 or 860-293-1039, or visit www.connecticutballet.com.