

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RUSSIAN NATIONAL BALLET THEATRE TO PERFORM “COPPELIA” AT
THE STOCKTON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, APRIL 1st**

“Where the Arts Come Alive!”

MARCH 5, 2010, POMONA, NJ --- A feast of music and dance sure to delight young and old alike, The Russian National Ballet Theater will perform “Coppelia” at the Stockton Performing Arts Center on Thursday, November 5th.

Show time is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$30 and \$45 and may be ordered online at www.stockton.edu/pac or by calling the Box Office at (609) 652-9000. The Box Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and an hour and a half before the performance. For Group Sales, call (609) 652-4786.

Coppelia or “The Girl with Enamel Eyes”, is a mime-ballet, originally choreographed by Arthur Saint-Leon with music by Leo Delibes. It is a humorous, yet moving story about love – seen through the eyes of a young, engaged couple and the heart of a lonely toy maker who dreams of making a doll with a soul. The playful story takes place in the storybook village of Olympia, Poland where a clever young girl (Swanilda), is surprised to discover her fiancé (Franz) flirting with a beautiful “girl” on a balcony. Swanilda’s jealousy grows until she discovers that the girl is really a lovely, life-sized doll created by Dr. Coppelius. Swanilda conjures a mischievous plan to teach Franz a lesson that ultimately leads to their touching reconciliation.

This classic love story offers wonder and humor for all ages. Younger audiences will be amused by the beautiful costumes and silly antics of the life-sized doll dancers. More mature audiences will be amused by the irony of the love story, the technical ability of the dancers, and the artistry reflecting diverse cultures and traditions from around the world. It is easy to understand

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COPPELIA (PAGE TWO)

why *Coppelia* has long been among the world's most loved ballets.

The Russian National Ballet Theatre was founded in Moscow during the transitional period of Perestroika in the late 1980s, when many of the great dancers and choreographers of the Soviet Union's ballet institutions were exercising their new-found creative freedom by starting new, vibrant companies dedicated not only to the timeless tradition of classical Russian Ballet but to invigorate this tradition as the Russians began to accept new developments in the dance from around the world.

The company, then titled the Soviet National Ballet, was founded by and incorporated graduates from the great Russian choreographic schools of Moscow, St. Petersburg and Perm. The principal dancers of the company came from the upper ranks of the great ballet companies and academies of Russia, and the companies of Riga, Kiev and even Warsaw. Today, the Russian National Ballet Theatre is its own institution, with over 50 dancers of singular instruction and vast experience, many of whom have been with the company since its inception.

For our patrons with special needs, the **Stockton Performing Arts Center** offers wheelchair accessible seating, large type programs, and listening assistive devices. Please identify any needs you may have when making a reservation.

The **Stockton Performing Arts Center**, the Jersey Shore's Center for the Arts, is located on the campus of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, on Jim Leeds Road in Pomona (Galloway Township). Just 12 miles west of Atlantic City, the Center is easily accessible from the Garden State Parkway and the Atlantic City Expressway.

This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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