

PRESS RELEASE



Long Beach Ballet Plays Host to a Major Chinese Ballet Company at the Terrace Theater

Introducing the Classical Ballet of Guangzhou China and *Cinderella*--the ballet--as it's never been seen (or heard) before!

At long last, a new ballet production of *Cinderella* that is making theater history! Already setting the ballet world on fire in China, this ground-breaking rendition of the classic tale by David Wilcox for a major Chinese ballet company is a game-changer for American ballet audiences. This is not your run-of-the-mill production using Prokofiev's often dark and unmelodic score. The genius of this new production was the creation of a "new" ballet score using the beautiful, light and uplifting melodies of Leo Delibes. Besides its simple beauty, the new score provided Wilcox the flexibility to "rewrite" the ballet and tell the story more clearly and deeply than it had ever been told in ballet form. Add to that Wilcox's well-known skill of using magic, humor and spectacle in his ballets, and one can see why the ballet became an instant hit in China.

Now about the dancers. On October 23rd, 50 of the world's finest classical ballet dancers from China will arrive in Long Beach and will be staying in Hotel Current on Pacific Coast Highway (Hotel Current is a major sponsor of the production). They are all members of the Classical Ballet of Guangzhou China, recipient of China's "Best Ballet" award in 2011. Many of them are Gold and Silver medal winners from major international ballet competitions, including Varna, Helsinki and Moscow. They will be rehearsing at Long Beach Ballet studios Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday the dancers will step onto the stage of the Terrace Theater for rehearsal, along with 200 elaborate costumes and cases of stunning scenery, scenery that was designed and painted by China's foremost theatrical artist.

The Guangzhou Ballet company will kick off their 2012 tour to Long Beach at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday with a Gala Performance of short ballets designed to spotlight the amazing talents of the dancers. The U.S. premiere of the world's newest and greatest production of the ballet *Cinderella* will be presented on Saturday evening, October 27th at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday afternoon, October 28th at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets start at \$28.00 and can be purchased at all TicketMaster outlets, at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center box office, or by calling the Long Beach Ballet at 877-852-3177. More information on the Classical Ballet of Guangzhou China can be found on their website www.GuangzhouBallet.org.