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**Milwaukee Ballet stages multi-sensory production at The Pabst
Winter Series features three abstract world premieres, runs Feb. 16 –19**

MILWAUKEE – Jan. 18, 2012 – Toned muscles, flexible bodies and contemporary ballet combine for Milwaukee Ballet’s multi-sensory performance of three abstract world premieres in *Winter Series*. Audiences can discover the dancers’ athleticism, strength and versatility up close at the intimate Pabst Theater Feb. 16-19, 2012. The guest choreographers working with the Company reinforce Milwaukee Ballet’s dedication to debuting innovative pieces.

Praised for his “acrobatic and daring” choreography, Brock Clawson will debut *Crossing Ashland*. Clawson has choreographed works for Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, The Dance Center of Columbia College, Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, and The Houston Metropolitan Dance Company and has premiered four works for Thodos Dance Chicago. The *Chicago Sun-Times* has called his work “daring and athletic” and “a real stunner.” Clawson was the recipient of the Dance Chicago 2005 Outstanding Choreography Award and the Cliff Dwellers Arts Organization and Dance Chicago awarded him the 2006 Choreographer of the Year.

Company dancer Petr Zahradníček returns with another original work, *Autumn Leaves*. Zahradníček, who was widely praised for last season’s *Broad Waters*, is excited to bring another original work to Milwaukee. Zahradníček found inspiration for the piece through the poetry of French symbolist Paul Verlaine. The Florentine Opera Studio Artists and Steven Ayers will be performing live to accompany the piece, which will explore the idea of constant change and relating a person’s life to seasons. Prior to his career with Milwaukee Ballet, Zahradníček performed with European companies, as well as Gleich Contemporary Dances in New York City and the Colorado Ballet. Since joining Milwaukee Ballet in 2003, Zahradníček has created many pieces for Milwaukee Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet II and Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy. He has also choreographed two pieces for Ballet Memphis and was chosen to participate in the “Dance Under the Stars Choreographic Competition” in 2010 and 2011.

The winner of Milwaukee Ballet's 2011 international choreographic competition, Mauro de Candia, returns to Milwaukee to share his evolution over the past year. Mauro de Candia will grace the stage with a yet to be named original work. In addition to his growing repertoire, de Candia recently announced he will be the new artistic director of Dance Company Theater Osnabrück in Germany beginning in August 2012, which will make him the youngest ballet director of a German State Company.

Winter Series runs Feb. 16-19 at the Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. Tickets range from \$28.50-\$96.00 and are available online at www.milwaukeeballet.org or by calling (414) 902-2103.

Subscription Packages

There's still time to become a Milwaukee Ballet subscriber! With the **Mini-Series** subscription package, subscribers get the three remaining shows – *Winter Series*, *Spring Series*, and the popular *Peter Pan* – at 10% off and enjoy the same reserved seats for each performance at the Marcus Center. The **Flex-Pass** offers the ultimate in flexibility. Subscribers can construct a season to fit their lifestyles and interests for just \$228. The four ticket vouchers can be used for any show, any performance, in any combination. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.milwaukeeballet.org or call (414)-902-2103.

About Milwaukee Ballet

Founded in 1970, Milwaukee Ballet strives to inspire its audiences to think within and beyond traditional ballet through the presentation of quality performances and the implementation of educational opportunities. Milwaukee Ballet and Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy are recognized among the top companies in the nation. Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy is the only professional dance school in the Midwest accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance. With an annual operating budget of more than \$5 million, Milwaukee Ballet presents more than 40 performances to more than 50,000 people each year. Its resident company includes 23 professional dancers along with 20 trainees in its Nancy Einhorn Milwaukee Ballet II program and is one of the few dance companies in the country to maintain its own symphony orchestra. Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy, the official school of the Ballet, has an enrollment of over 1,000 students at three locations throughout Southeastern Wisconsin.

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Note to Editors: Interviews with Milwaukee Ballet Artistic Director Michael Pink, Brock Clawson, Petr Zahradníček, Mauro de Candia and Company dancers are available upon request. In addition, high-resolution images are also available.