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THE ITHACA BALLET OPENS ITS 46th PERFORMANCE SEASON WITH A FALL
MATINEE

October 20-21 at the State Theatre in Ithaca, NY

ITHACA – Under the direction of Cindy Reid, the Ithaca Ballet opens its 46th anniversary performance season with two classic tales. The fall matinée performances include the two-act Grimm fairy tale *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* and the comedy *Pulcinella*. *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* is a colorful ballet featuring an evocative score by Edvard Grieg, including the haunting "Hall of The Mountain King." While *Pied Piper* is spooky enough for Halloween (children as well as rats are led away from their village), artistic elements, including the unforgettable backdrop by Alice Reid, the comic relief provided by the clownish Mayor and his two clumsy sidekicks, and the virtuoso dancing displayed by the Gypsies, Townspeople and the Pied Piper himself, reassuringly demonstrate that this is all make-believe.

Pulcinella is a light-hearted, family-friendly ballet created by contemporary choreographer, Byron Suber. Set to a lively Stravinsky score, it features harlequin costumes inspired by the original Italian comedy (Commedia dell'Arte) on which the ballet is based. The story involves elements common to this genre (and sure to delight children!) including slapstick, disguise, and mistaken identity, as well as a happy ending. As in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Ithaca Ballet's production last spring), after a lot of screwball confusion, everyone ends up with the right partner.

In addition to these Fall performances, the Ithaca Ballet will perform the holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*, at the State Theater in December—truly an Ithaca holiday tradition! In February, the annual Winter Ballet Repertoire performance brings the excitement of contemporary ballet to Ithaca. And in the Spring, the Ithaca Ballet proudly offers a new production of the timeless classic *Swan Lake*.

Ithaca Ballet is a home-grown product featuring dancers known to many in the community through other venues. New Senior Dancers this year include Emma Fitzpatrick, Nora DeMott Grady, Julia Hellmich, Rosie Sayvetz, Marielena Sosa and Katie Taylor. Returning as Senior

Dancers are Ana Steen and Teresa Lynn. Productions will also feature Johann Studier, Ithaca Ballet's leading man and former Houston Ballet dancer, whose strength and grace are known to us from his many past performances. Nadia Drake, whose stage presence and exquisite talent for interpretation match her impressive technical ability, returns as Principal Dancer.

Tickets for the Ithaca Ballet's fall performance can be purchased at the State Theater box office, by calling 1-800-919-6272, or online at www.stateofithaca.com. Ticket prices are: Adults - \$18 , Seniors - \$15, Students - \$12, and Children - \$6. Group discounts are available by calling 277-8283.

Founded in 1961, The Ithaca Ballet, housed at the Ballet Center of Ithaca, is Upstate New York's only repertory company. The ballet is a professional ensemble corps, having a varied repertoire of classical and contemporary works. Nationally known, the company tours the Finger Lakes Region.

www.ithacaballet.org