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Segerstrom Center for the Arts Presents the Exclusive West Coast Engagement of Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo

Celebrated company performs Southern California premiere of Jean-Christophe Maillot's romantic *Cinderella* in Segerstrom Hall February 9 – 12

Center performances highlight 'Monaco takes Orange County' cultural celebration

COSTA MESA, CA – Segerstrom Center for the Arts presents the Southern California debut of **Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo** February 9 – 12, under the Presidency of H.R.H. the Princess of Hanover. The company will perform a sophisticated interpretation of one of the world's most romantic fairytales, *Cinderella*, choreographed by the company's visionary artistic director Jean-Christophe Maillot to the classic score by Sergei Prokofiev. *La Croix* called Maillot's *Cinderella* "poetic and expressive." *The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* pronounced it "brilliant." Maillot and his dancers capture the hearts of their audience.

In honor of this exclusive West Coast engagement, the Consulate General of Monaco and the Monaco Government Tourist Office in collaboration with the Princess Grace Foundation-USA will host a weeklong fairytale celebration inviting all to experience the sublime culture of the Principality. In addition to the performances of *Cinderella* in Segerstrom Hall, highlights of the week include Monégasque-inspired menus at local restaurants, a luxury raffle for a chance to win the trip of a lifetime to Monaco, a not-to-be-missed exhibit in South Coast Plaza's Jewel Court showcasing Monaco's unique cultural heritage and Princess Grace's exceptional contribution to the arts through photos, videos, ballet artifacts and more. For more information about 'Monaco takes Orange County,' visit MonacoTakesUS.com.

Tickets to performances of Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo start at \$13.60 and are now available online at SCFTA.org, by calling (714) 556-2787 and at the Box Office at 600 Town Center Drive in Costa Mesa. For inquiries about group ticket discounts, call the Group Services office at (714) 755-0236. The TTY number is (714) 556-2746. Free Preview Talks will be conducted one hour prior to each performance. *Artists and program are subject to change.*

The Center's 2011-2012 International Dance Series is made possible by The Audrey Steele Burnand Endowed Fund for International Dance and The Segerstrom Foundation Endowment for Great Performances. The Center applauds Media Sponsor Classical KUSC 91.5FM.

Crédit Foncier de Monaco, Thermes Marins de Monte-Carlo, Suisscourtage Assurances and Rolex are official partners of Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo.

Center President Terrence W. Dwyer said, "The arrival of Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo to Segerstrom Center will be one of the most exciting debuts in the history of our Dance Series and is a very special highlight in our 25th Anniversary Celebration. We are proud to present the West Coast premiere of Jean-Christophe Maillot's beautiful production of *Cinderella* and to be part of this international collaboration, 'Monaco takes Orange County'."

"With myriad cultural, sporting, and lifestyle experiences, the Principality of Monaco has attracted discerning visitors for centuries," said the Honorable Maguy Maccario, Consul General and Director, North America, Monaco Government Tourist Office. "Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo exemplifies the rich artistic heritage and regal traditions of the Principality, and we are delighted to invite residents from coast to coast to embark on a magical journey as Les Ballets celebrates a triumphant return to the United States with an exclusive West Coast engagement at Segerstrom Center for the Arts and then onto New York City's Joyce Theater in the 30th anniversary year of the Princess Grace Foundation."

One of Europe's most acclaimed ballet companies, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo has developed a unique style that is as classical as it is contemporary. It is this blended technique that is on brilliant display in his elegant and whimsical production of *Cinderella*. Along with his inspired choreography, the production is by Ernest Pignon-Ernest with costumes by Jérôme Kaplan and light by Dominique Drillot. It was first seen at the Salle Garnier, Monte-Carlo Opera in April 1999.

Jean-Christophe Maillot was appointed Artistic Director-Choreographer of Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo by H.R.H. the Princess of Hanover in September 1993. His taking over as director of 50 dancers has taken the company on a new path and has rapidly developed the level of maturity and excellence that is indicative of the company today. His personal inward quest is the origin of the new language that enables him to handle the great classics as well as to establish his mark in the world of abstraction, an artistic approach that has been praised throughout the international press. In 2002, his production, *La Belle*, received the Nijinsky Award for best choreographic production of 2001 at the Monaco Dance Forum and the Danza & Danza Prize for the best show. He was awarded the Choreographer's Prize from the Italian critics at the Benois de la Dance ceremony at the Bolshoi Theatre for his production of *Faust* created in Monaco.

Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo was reestablished in the Principality in 1985 through the commitment of H.R.H. the Princess of Hanover in accordance with the wishes of H.S.H Princess Grace of Monaco. The company was initially managed by Ghislaine Thesmar and Pierre Lacotte, then by Jean-Yves Esquerre. In 1993, H.R.H. the Princess of Hanover appointed Jean-Christophe Maillot as the head of the company. Building on his dance experience gained with Rosella Hightower and John Neumeier, and as

choreographer and director of the National Choreographic Centre in Tours, Maillot gave the Monégasque company a new boost. He created an original repertoire around his own productions. Maillot's choreographic influence dominates in pieces such as *Dov'e la luna*, *Recto-Verso*, *Vers un Pays Sage*, *Entrelacs*, *Opus 40*, *Men's Dance*, *D'une Rive à l'Autre*, *Altro Canto* and *Miniatures*, as well as in the great classics with their timeless themes, such as *Romeo and Juliette*, *The Nutcracker*, *La Belle*, *Faust* and *Daphnis and Chloé* and, of course, *Cinderella*.

Visual artists such as George Condo, Ernest Pignon-Ernest, Philippe Favier, Rolf Sachs and Dominique Drillot, composers such as Marc Monnet, Yan Maresz, Andrea Cera, Ivan Fedele, Ramon Lazkano, Martin Matalon, Daniel Teruggi and Bruno Mantovani and costume designers Jérôme Kaplan, Philippe Guillotel and Karl Lagerfeld have been involved in these works.

Maillot recently enriched the repertoire by inviting contemporary choreographers including William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Karole Armitage, Marco Goecke, Johan Inger, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Shen Wei, Alonzo King, Emio Greco, and Chris Haring among others. Since 1993, the company has been performing on major international stages. In 2009 and 2010, on the occasion of Celebration of Les Ballets Russes Centenary, the company collaborated closely with the Princess Grace Dance Academy and the Monaco Dance Forum (founded in 1998 by H.R.H. the Princess of Hanover, Jean-Christophe Maillot and Stéphane Martin). The following year, the three entities begun the process of their merging officially in order to create in the Principality of Monaco a structure dedicated to dance quite unique in the world.

Consulate General of Monaco & Monaco Government Tourist Office, the only accredited Consulate General of Monaco in North America (www.Monaco-Consulate.com), provides consular services, cultural and general information. The Consulate also organizes exclusive promotional and philanthropic events to benefit charitable endeavors, many of which are held under the patronage of the Princely Family, including the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation-USA. The Monaco Government Tourist Office (www.VisitMonaco.com/us) offers personalized tourism advice and information for individuals, group and business travel as well as access to Le Club Diamant Rouge for VIP travel membership within the Principality of Monaco.

Seegerstrom Center for the Arts is unique as both an acclaimed arts institution and as a multi-disciplinary cultural campus. It is committed to supporting artistic excellence on all of its stages, offering unsurpassed experiences, and engaging the entire community in new and exciting ways through the unique power of live performance and a diverse array of inspiring programs.

Previously called the Orange County Performing Arts Center, Seegerstrom Center traces its roots back to the late 1960s when a dedicated group of community leaders decided Orange County should have its own world-class performing arts venue.

As Orange County's largest non-profit arts organization, Seegerstrom Center for the Arts owns and operates the 3,000-seat Seegerstrom Hall and intimate 250-seat Founders Hall, which opened in 1986,

and the 2,000-seat Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, which opened in 2006 and also houses the 500-seat Samueli Theater, the Lawrence and Kristina Dodge Education Center's studio performance space and Boeing Education Lab. A spacious arts plaza anchors Segerstrom Center for the Arts and is home to numerous free performances throughout the year as part of Segerstrom Center for the Arts' ongoing Free for All series.

The Center presents a broad range of programming each season for audiences of all ages from throughout Orange County and beyond, including international ballet and dance, national tours of top Broadway shows, intimate performances of jazz and cabaret, contemporary artists, classical music performed by renowned chamber orchestras and ensembles, family-friendly programming, free performances open to the public from outdoor movie screenings to dancing on the plaza and many other special events. It offers many education programs designed to inspire young people through the arts. These programs reach hundreds of thousands of students of all ages with vital arts-in-education programs, enhancing their studies and enriching their lives well into the future.

In addition to the presenting and producing institution Segerstrom Center for the Arts, the 14-acre campus also embraces the facilities of two independent acclaimed organizations: Tony® Award-winning **South Coast Repertory** and a site designated as the future home of the **Orange County Museum of Art**.

Segerstrom Center for the Arts is also proud to serve as the artistic home to three of the region's major performing arts organizations: **Pacific Symphony**, the **Philharmonic Society of Orange County** and the **Pacific Chorale**, who contribute greatly to the artistic life of the region with annual seasons at Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo

Segerstrom Center for the Arts – Segerstrom Hall
February 9 – February 12, 2012

Cinderella

Thursday & Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday at 2 and 7:30 p.m.

Sunday at 2 p.m.

Free Preview Talks will be conducted one hour prior to each performance.

Segerstrom Center for the Arts – Segerstrom Hall
600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, CA

Tickets: Start at \$13.60
In person - The Box Office
600 Town Center Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily
Online - SCFTA.org
Phone - (714) 556-2787
Open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily
TTY number - (714) 556-2746
Group Sales - (714) 755-0236

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