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**ROXEY BALLET PRESENTS THE NEW MADE FOR TELEVISION “PIED PIPER OF
HAMELIN” AND “CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS” PREMIERING MAY 31, 2021**

The Made for Television productions can be viewed on the Roxey Ballet Channel

LAMBERTVILLE, NJ (2021) – Roxey Ballet presents the new Made for Television productions of Children’s Classic Stories featuring *Pied Piper of Hamelin* and *Carnival of the Animals*. Showcasing its international cast alongside pre-professional dancers and students, both productions will premiere on Roxey Ballet’s Made for Television Channel.

“This truly special combination of performances -*Pied Piper of Hamelin* and *Carnival of the Animals*- have become all-time favorites for both the performers and the audiences of Roxey Ballet, so we’re particularly excited to bill them together under one subscription to our Roxey Ballet Channel” states Mark Roxey, Founding Director of Roxey Ballet.

Originally co-written by Stockton, New Jersey resident, Richard Jarboe and Los Angeles resident, Harvey Shield, *The Pied Piper* premiered as a musical theatre production in Los Angeles in 1984 at the Olio theater. In 1986 it moved Off-Broadway to the Circle-in-the-Square. Mark Roxey’s original choreographed version debuted as *Pied Piper of Hamelin* in 2002 at Villa Victoria Theater in Ewing, New Jersey.

Mark Roxey describes it: “Our contemporary version of The Pied Piper is a zany romp through a notorious German folk tale with rock-opera style anthems and upbeat choreography.” The production recalls the story of the rat-catcher dressed in multicolored clothing hired by a medieval town to lure rats away with his magic pipe. When the townspeople refuse to pay for his service, he invokes the pipe’s power to lead the children away as he had the rats.

Carnival of the Animals tells the story of a child lost at a zoo who encounters a variety of dynamic animals as she seeks her way home. In this musical suite by the French Romantic composer Camille Saint-Saens, each of the fourteen musical movements depict particular animals. The ballet includes 57

colorful costumes and masks designed by Alicia Worden, Ana Vichnevetsky, and Nilda Roxey. As the dancers interpret lions, fish, donkeys, elephants, chickens, tortoises, birds and kangaroos, audience members are introduced to many styles of dance paired with Saint-Saens' surprising instrumentation.

"The goal of our Televised Children's Classic Stories is to offer families who live near and far familiar tales in vibrant ways to engage new audiences," explains Lees Hummel, Roxey Ballet's Director of Outreach. "These are family-friendly productions highlighting the talents of pre-professional student dancers complemented by our professional ballet dancers. Even the youngest dancers play pivotal roles and their enthusiasm is contagious!"

Performances are available on Roxey Ballet's Channel at <https://www.roxeyballet.org/piedpiper>. Content includes additional Latin Culture works by Giovanni Ravelo, Mark Flaco Best, Solana Hoffman-Carter, and Mark Roxey, as well as, Behind the Scenes auditions and rehearsals, interviews with cast and crew, dance classes, previews of the performances and bloopers.

Roxey Ballet is a world class, all-inclusive contemporary ballet company that uses dance to build community and cultural bridges. We welcome and educate artists with disabilities, cultural diversity, of varying genders and promote equality for their greater fulfillment and experience. We come from diversity and are proud of our commitment to anti-racism, equity and inclusion. As artists and arts educators we communicate empathy, respect, and cultural diversity through our art form and in our everyday activities. We provide a safe space for learning, creating, sharing, and collaborating. For 27 years this has been our purpose and it will persevere as we move forward. Our unique and diverse works are inspirational to audiences and artists alike. Access to high-quality dance performance and education is paramount.

Roxey Ballet's programs are made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts - a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, New Jersey Council for the Humanities - a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Kennedy Center, VSA - The International Organization on Arts and Disability, Church and Dwight, Dance New Jersey, The Princeton Area Community Foundation Arts and Culture Recovery Fund, Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, Cultural Trust of New Jersey and individuals and businesses.

Press images, cast biographies, interviews and media access to rehearsals are available upon request at info@roxeyballet.org or by calling (609) 397-7616.

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