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Press Release
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Brandywine Ballet Celebrates its 30th Anniversary Season of Dance – New Website!

West Chester, PA – Chester County's Brandywine Ballet will present its 30th Anniversary season of dance in 2009/2010. The company has launched a new website featuring popular interactive features such as Twitter, Facebook, and MySpace to commemorate the occasion. The 30th Anniversary marks the return of Brandywine Ballet's popular full-length ballet *Dracula*, holiday performances of *The Nutcracker*, and the world premiere of a new work celebrating the 100th Anniversary of composer Samuel Barber. Tickets are on sale now at www.brandywineballet.com and (610) 696-2711.

The recent bestselling novel and movie *Twilight* illustrates the enduring nature of themes such as undying love and conflicted passion at the center of vampire folklore. Nancy Page's *Dracula* (Oct. 23-25) based on the original Bram Stoker vampire novel, follows the immortal romance of beautiful Mina and the 400 year old vampire prince Count Dracula. In addition to impeccable soloing, sensual pas de deux, and exhilarating ensemble dancing, *Dracula* includes sets of eerily lit 19th century castles and sun-draped terraces; tantalizing costumes and suspenseful sword battles; as well as an emotionally moving musical score.

Brandywine Ballet's *The Nutcracker* (Dec. 11-20) is firmly rooted in the magnificent splendor of the Victorian Era during Act I, transporting audiences to the enchanted Land of Sweets in Act II. Join Clara's journey full of imagination, in which Toy Soldiers and Mice ballet fiercely, the Sugar Plum Fairy reigns, and an all ages cast of over 80 dancers and actors create pure balletic magic. *The Nutcracker*, a long running tradition in Chester County and across the country, is sure to delight and set your holiday season off on the right track.

2010 marks the 100th Anniversary of international composer and West Chester native Samuel Barber. For its spring performance, Brandywine Ballet will debut a new work featuring the music of Samuel Barber at Longwood Gardens (June 4) as part of Chester County wide tributes to the great composer. In addition to honoring Samuel Barber, the company has secured licensing and George Balanchine Trust approval to perform Balanchine's *Valse Fantasie*. Brandywine Ballet's Longwood performance concludes a triumphant 30th Anniversary season of dance.

Donna Muzio founded Brandywine Ballet in 1979, and has continuously served as the company's Artistic Director. Brandywine Ballet includes pre-professional and professional dancers, as well as guest artists. The Certificate in Ballet, a joint program with West Chester University, enables dancers to pursue the academic degree of their choice while participating in Brandywine Ballet's classes, rehearsals, and performances. In recent years, the company has premiered works by guest choreographer's Matthew Neenan (Ballet X), Ronen Koresh (Koresh Dance Company), and Meredith Rainey (formerly Pennsylvania Ballet), as well as earned George Balanchine Trust approval to perform three Balanchine pieces *Concerto Barocco*, *Tchaikovsky's Pas De Deux*, and *Serenade*. National publication *Dance Magazine* recently recognized Brandywine Ballet for its thought-provoking mix of classical and contemporary ballet programming.

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