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**“HAPPILY EVER AFTER” REQUIRES A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS, A HANDSOME PRINCE, AND A ROMANTIC KISS-
SEE IT ALL AS THE CINCINNATI BALLET PRESENTS THE SLEEPING BEAUTY**

CINCINNATI, OH – January, 24 2007 – Can a sleeping Princess be awakened by the kiss of a handsome Prince? Find out as the ballet world’s favorite fairy tale is brought to life when Cincinnati Ballet performs the celebrated full-length ballet *The Sleeping Beauty* February 9 – 11, at The Aronoff Center.

Cincinnati Ballet’s *The Sleeping Beauty* has been authentically choreographed by Kirk Peterson after the Marius Petipa original, which debuted in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1890. Music Director Carmon DeLeone will conduct the famous score by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, perhaps the most beautiful-ever classical ballet score. Sumptuous costumes add to the pageantry and refinement in this tale of an evil spell, a handsome prince and a beautiful young girl.

The Sleeping Beauty begins when the menacing fairy Carabosse is not invited to the celebration of the birth of the daughter to the King and his Queen. Carabosse casts a spell, and proclaims that the Princess will prick her finger and die. Luckily, the good Lilac Fairy immediately casts another spell to change Aurora’s fate to sleep, not death. It comes about that sixteen years later, after four princes seek Princess Aurora’s hand in marriage during her birthday celebration, that she pricks her hand on a spindle delivered by Carabosse, disguised as a hideous old woman. Accordingly, the whole kingdom falls into a deep slumber.

One hundred years later, the Lilac Fairy appears to Prince Florimund, and takes him to the enchanted castle where Aurora sleeps. Though Carabosse tries to prevent him, the Prince discovers the sleeping Princess. The spell is broken when he tenderly kisses Princess Aurora, who awakens. The whole kingdom is bathed in sunlight, and the wedding of Aurora and Florimund is celebrated with glorious dancing, as the Lilac Fairy gives her eternal blessing to the newlyweds and they live happily ever after.

The first in the illustrious trio of Petipa/Tchaikovsky ballets and the crowning jewel of Petipa’s career, *The Sleeping Beauty* blends mime, pas d’action and beautiful divertissements in a spectacular theatrical setting. Tchaikovsky was pleased to compose a score for the ballet based on the well-know fairy tale by Charles Perrault. Filled with fairies, a beautiful princess, and her dreamy prince, *The Sleeping Beauty* represents the pinnacle of the Classical ballet and the perfect ballet for any age group.

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Sleeping Beauty was the first successful ballet composed by Tchaikovsky.

The Sleeping Beauty was the first ballet that great impresario Serge Diaghilev ever saw.

Rudolf Nureyev made his debut in the West dancing in *The Sleeping Beauty*.

The reopening performance of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in 1949, following the end of World War II was not an opera but *The Sleeping Beauty*.

This performance of *The Sleeping Beauty* was also the first time that Sadler's Wells Ballet danced as the Royal Ballet.

The Sleeping Beauty was the first ballet to launch the Royal Ballet in the United States. It was the ballet that made Margot Fonteyn internationally famous after the company brought it to the Metropolitan Opera House in New York in 1949.

The young George Balanchine first appeared on stage as Cupid in *The Sleeping Beauty*.

The great ballet master Enrico Cecchetti was the first to dance Carabosse and the Bluebird in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Carabosse was killed off early enough in Act II so that he could be ready to perform again as Bluebird in Act III. Cecchetti celebrated his 50th anniversary as a soloist by recreating the role of Carabosse in London.

WHERE: The Procter and Gamble Hall
 The Aronoff Center
 650 Walnut Street
 Cincinnati, OH 45202

WHEN: Friday, February 9 at 8 pm, 2007
 Saturday, February 10 at 2 pm, 2007
 Saturday, February 10 at 8 pm, 2007
 Sunday, February 11 at 2 pm, 2007

TICKETS: \$21 – 66 at Cincinnati Ballet Box Office 513-621-5282 or www.cincinnatiaballet.com

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