

For Immediate Release

Brenda Hutchison
Marketing Assistant
Northwest Florida Ballet
(850) 664-7787
Fax: (950) 664-0130
bhutchison@nfballet.org
www.nfballet.org

Northwest Florida Ballet Presents Dr. Coppelius' Magic Toy Shoppe

February 9, 2010 – Fort Walton Beach, Fla. – the Northwest Florida Ballet (NFB), under the direction of Artistic Director and CEO Todd Eric Allen, returns to the Mattie Kelly Fine and Performing Arts Center at Northwest Florida State College's Niceville campus with their production of Dr. Coppelius' Magic Toy Shoppe on March 20 and 21.

Dr. Coppelius' Magic Toy Shoppe is a lively ballet set in three acts and is filled to the brim with renderings of love, loss, mistaken identity and the promise of happily ever after. This ballet is the perfect special event for the entire family and just in time for spring.

Dr. Coppelius' Magic Toy Shoppe, originally titled "Coppelia", was first performed at the Paris Opera in 1870, choreographed by Arthur Saint Leon and set to music by Leo Delibes. It is a humorous, yet moving story about love seen through the eyes of a young, engaged couple and the heart of an eccentric toy maker who dreams of making a doll with a soul. The playful story takes place in the 19th century storybook village of Olympia, Poland, where a feisty young girl (Swanilda), is surprised to discover her fiancé (Franz) flirting with a beautiful "girl" on a balcony. Swanilda's jealousy grows until she discovers that the girl is really a life-sized doll created by Dr. Coppelius. Swanilda conjures up a mischievous plan to teach Franz a lesson he will not soon forget.

International guest artist Eleanor Carney portrays the role of the high-spirited Swanilda and international guest artist Ian Carney will play the role of her fickle boyfriend Franz. Andy Waltrip will bring the role of the mysterious and eccentric Dr. Coppelius to life. NFB ballet mistress, Dorothy Daniels Lister, stages the performance.

Performances of Dr. Coppelius' Magic Toy Shoppe are sponsored by the Barlotta Financial Group of Wells Fargo Advisors and will be held Saturday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 21 at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$25 for adults and \$12.50 for children 12 and under.

A Tutu Fabulous Party and fashion show for ages 4-8 will also be held on Sunday, March 14 at 1 p.m. at Toy Magic in Fort Walton Beach. Tickets for the Tutu Party are \$25 for

one child accompanied by an adult and must be purchased separately. Partial proceeds from the party will benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast. For tickets or more information on the performance or the Tutu Fabulous Party please call the NFB office at (850) 664-7787 or visit us online at www.nfballet.org.

The Northwest Florida Ballet celebrates its 40th year as a regionally recognized semi-professional ballet company and school. In addition, NFB has developed the nationally acclaimed 'Academie' – and integrated academic and dance education program serving 140 students from the third to eighth grade. The NFB is led by Artistic Director and CEO Todd Eric Allen, an area native. The NFB is funded in part by the Florida Arts Council.

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