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For Immediate Release

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***La Danse: The Paris Opera Ballet,*
Frederick Wiseman's Portrait of the Legendary Dance Troupe,
Has Seattle Theatrical Premiere Friday December 4th at
Northwest Film Forum**

Seattle, WA —Northwest Film Forum is pleased to present the Seattle premiere of *La Danse: The Paris Opera Ballet*, opening Friday, December 4th and playing through Thursday, December 10th, daily at 7pm. In *La Danse*, documentary master Frederick Wiseman turns his attention to one of the world's greatest ballet companies, the Paris Opera Ballet.

In the film, the camera roams the vast Palais Garnier, an opulent 19th-century building, from its crystal chandelier-laden corridors to its labyrinthine underground chambers, from its light-filled rehearsal studios to its luxurious theater replete with 2,200 scarlet velvet seats and Marc Chagall ceiling. *La Danse* devotes most of its time to watching impossibly beautiful young men and women—among them Nicolas Le Riche, Marie-Agnès Gillot, and Agnès Letestu—rehearsing and performing seven ballets, including *Genus* by Wayne McGregor, *Paquita* by Pierre Lacotte, *The Nutcracker* by Rudolf Nureyev, *Medea* by Angelin Preljocaj, *The House of Bernarda Alba* by Mats Ek, *Romeo and Juliet* by Sasha Waltz and *Orpheus and Eurydyce* by Pina Bausch. For balletomanes and the curious alike, *La Danse* serves up a scrumptious meal of delectable moments, one more glorious than the next, made even more precious by their ephemeral nature.

Frederick Wiseman is one of the world's leading practitioners of the observational documentary. His thirty-eight films include *Titicut Follies*, *High School*, *Basic Training*, *Public Housing*, *Domestic Violence and Ballet* (on the American Ballet Theater). Critic Philip Lopate has called Wiseman "the greatest American filmmaker of the last 30 years."

"To say that the film, sumptuous in its length and graceful in its rhythm, is a feast for ballet lovers is to state the obvious and also to sell Mr. Wiseman's achievement a bit short. Yes, this is one of the finest dance films ever made, but there's more to it than that." - A.O. Scott, *New York Times*

“When a work of art is “transcendent,” it allows us to see beyond the material world. *La Danse* is not transcendent. It’s about flesh and bone and sinew, about sublimity on Earth.” - David Edelstein, *New York Magazine*

“He combines a panoramic sweep with intimate portraiture, That’s incredibly hard to pull off as a filmmaker, to have a sense of a larger world while remaining true to the particularities and foibles of individuals. “I think his ultimate goal is to teach us to see and listen better.” - Josh Siegel, *Museum of Modern Art*

LA DANSE: THE PARIS OPERA BALLET (2009, 158 mins.) Director, Editor and Sound: Frederick Wiseman. Produced by Pierre-Oliver Bardet, Frederick Wiseman, Françoise Gazio. Photography: John Davey. Note: See press kit for a complete list of dancers and ballets. France/USA. In English and French with English subtitles. An Ideale Audience, Opera National de Paris, Zipporah Films production.

DVD screeners are available; please email ryan@nwfilmforum.org to obtain one. Images can be downloaded at www.nwfilmforum.org/press.

Tickets are \$6/Northwest Film Forum members, \$6.50/children and seniors and \$9/general admission. Tickets can be purchased online at www.nwfilmforum.org or by calling 1-800-838-3006.

About Northwest Film Forum

Northwest Film Forum is Seattle's premiere film arts organization, screening over 200 independently made and classic films annually, offering a year-round schedule of filmmaking classes (including summer camps for youth), and supporting filmmakers at all stages of their careers. More information is available at www.nwfilmforum.org.

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