



press release

Contact: Diane Steinert
steinert@wneo.org
330-677-4549

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Artistic Director of “The Nutcracker” to Appear on PBS 45 & 49 NewsMaker Akron Special

*Christine Meneer talks about Children’s Ballet Theatre,
Ballet Theatre of Ohio and the future of ballet in the Akron area*

**PBS
45 & 49**

Northeastern
Educational Television of
Ohio, Inc.

**1750 Campus
Center Drive**

P. O. Box 5191

Kent, Ohio

44240-5191

Phone
330.677.4549

Fax
330.678.0688

E-mail
questions@wneo.org

Web Site
www.pbs4549.org

KENT, Ohio — Dec. 18, 2006 — A local much-loved tradition of the holiday season is Children’s Ballet Theatre’s performance of “The Nutcracker.” For the past 14 years, professional and preprofessional dancers have staged this production under the artistic direction of Christine Meneer, whose choreography brings the enchanting fairy tale to life. This year’s performance of “The Nutcracker” was the last one for Children’s Ballet Theatre because when the curtain dropped, it became Ballet Theatre of Ohio, a new professional ballet company under the artistic director of Meneer.

Tune in to PBS 45 & 49 on Friday, Dec. 22 at 9 p.m. when **NewsNight Akron** panelist Jody Miller talks with Meneer about her professional journey, the magic of “The Nutcracker” and the future of ballet for the greater Akron area. The program airs again on Saturday, Dec. 23 at 5 a.m.

Meneer formed Ballet Theatre of Ohio just a few months ago, following the demise of Ohio Ballet. What she has planned for Akron area audiences and what it will take to make Ballet Theatre of Ohio a success are discussed during this entertaining program, which includes scenes from “The Nutcracker,” “Sleeping Beauty” and “Cinderella.”

About NewsNight Akron

NewsNight Akron airs every Friday night at 9 p.m. on PBS 45 & 49 and offers spontaneous, lively, in-depth discussions about issues that affect the lives of people in greater Akron. Hosted by Vincent Duffy, director of programming and operations at 89.7/WKSU-FM, **NewsNight Akron** features a roundtable discussion with a panel of local journalists that covers both breaking news stories on topics such as education, the community and local business, as well as ongoing subjects including elections and major news stories. Serving as regular panelists on the show are Steve Hoffman, political writer at the *Akron Beacon Journal*; Jody Miller, editor and publisher of *Bath Country Journal*; and Ed Esposito, Joe Jastzremski and Larry States, all of whom are members of the Rubber City Radio Group news staff.

About PBS 45 & 49

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of noncommercial television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. For more information about PBS 45 & 49, visit <http://www.pbs4549.org> or call 1-800-854-4549.

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Photo captions:

Nutcracker.jpg: Clara Dietz performs in the Children’s Ballet Theatre production “The Nutcracker.”

Meneer.jpg: Christine Meneer, director of the new Ballet Theatre of Ohio, will be featured on PBS 45 & 49’s “NewsMaker Akron” special on Friday, Dec. 22 at 9 p.m.