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***A Priceless “Princely Affair” for Boca Ballet Theatre
and Centennial Celebration for Countess de Hoernle***

Boca Raton, FL – From the elegant décor to the enchanting performances, the Great Hall at the Boca Raton Resort & Club was surely fit for a queen – or, more appropriately, for a Countess. Henrietta Countess de Hoernle was regal and radiant as the special guest at Boca Ballet Theatre’s signature “*A Princely Affair*” luncheon and performance on Sunday, November 4th, in honor of her 100th birthday. “I felt like Alice in Wonderland when I walked in the door”, she gushed.

The festivities began with a mimosa social hour, exciting raffle prizes and a silent auction for the 300 glamorous guests, followed by a delicious luncheon and dazzling dance performances. Aspiring young dancers from Boca Ballet Theatre’s Countess de Hoernle Center for Dance performed in celebration of the Countess’ birthday, and world renowned dancers Ashley Boudier and Matthew Dibble entranced the audience with the fanciful *George Balanchine pas de deux, Stars and Stripes™*. Ms. Boudier, a Principal dancer at New York City Ballet, and Matthew Dibble, formerly with Royal Ballet of London and recently starring in Twyla Tharp’s *Come Fly Away*, exemplify the high caliber guest artists that Boca Ballet Theatre presents each year.

Cindy Surman, the luncheon’s enthusiastic and poised mistress of ceremonies, set the tone for the afternoon when she stepped up to the microphone to welcome attendees and give heartfelt thanks to the many hardworking volunteers. A standing ovation and thunderous applause preceded an upbeat chorus of birthday wishes for the Countess, to celebrate her special centennial. To kick off the 2012-2013 season, Boca Ballet Theatre dancers presented excerpts from the upcoming productions of *The Nutcracker* and *Romeo and Juliet*, choreographed by Boca Ballet Theatre’s Artistic Director Dan Guin.

The grand-prize raffle was a luxurious 7-night cruise for two, sponsored by Giuliano and Judy Lorenzani of Boca Raton Travel & Cruises, along with Royal Caribbean International. Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzani are endearingly considered the honorary “prince and princess” of the event, as Boca Raton Travel & Cruises has been the exclusive sponsor of the grand prize raffle since *Princely Affair’s* inception. Additional auction items featured a Good Year Blimp Ride for two,



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week-long resort stays in the Caribbean, 3-nights at the Ritz Carlton, and gift certificates for local restaurants and spas.

Boca Ballet Theatre is grateful for Event Chairs, Susan Beery and Lidia Cegarra, Co-Chair Carrie Gibbons, and their dedicated Guild Members whose collective efforts and contributions helped make this event so extraordinary. Additional thanks to Seton Smith for designing the beautiful and decadent décor. The attending Board of Directors, Honorary Board Members, and Advisory Board Members were “pleased as punch” with the affair.

Boca Ballet Theatre’s upcoming season will begin with the beloved holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*, presented by Marleen and Harold Forkas, on November 23-25. The *Princely Affair* guests were pleased to have “grand dame” Marleen Forkas in attendance, and enthusiastically applauded her continued sponsorship of *The Nutcracker*.

Romeo & Juliet will continue the season, on March 23-24, 2013. Both *The Nutcracker* and *Romeo & Juliet* will be held at Olympic Heights Performing Arts Center (20101 Lyons Road, Boca Raton). The repertory concert, *Return to Russe*, will be the season finale, on August 3-4, 2013 at Florida Atlantic University Theater (777 Glades Road, Boca Raton).

Founded in 1990, Boca Ballet Theatre’s mission is to enrich the cultural landscape of our community and to educate our youth in classical ballet and concert dance through focused training, interaction with professional dancers and participation in full length ballets and contemporary choreography.

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*In loving memory

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