

Together We Jump for Joy!

Cultural partners kick off 2021 with Wild at Heart year-long celebration

SEATTLE — Together we jump for joy!

As we jump into 2021, we are excited to share a new year-long **Wild at Heart** series that will celebrate the lively partnerships of local cultural organizations.



Arts, science and heritage are the heart of Seattle. We are a vibrant and rich community of cultural partners—from artists to actors to animal lovers, museums to musicians, and singers to scientists. We are all Wild at Heart, and we celebrate our unique and collective contributions that bring life to this city.

After a challenging 2020, the arts and culture community is still strong thanks to the generosity and support of our community. We are so grateful! To celebrate and thank you, each month a different cultural partner from the Seattle area will join Woodland Park Zoo for a photo to capture our shared spirit. And you'll find lots of other surprises along the way!

January 2021

This month, the **Pacific Northwest Ballet** and **Woodland Park Zoo** proclaim, "Together we jump for joy!"

For our January photo celebration, Pacific Northwest Ballet (PNB) principal dancers Noelani Pantastico and James Moore visited the animals at Woodland Park Zoo for a delightful day of dance. Be it on pointe with penguins or leaping with lions, we can't contain our excitement to be starting the year together.

"Last year was hard on all of us, but it also brought out the best in so many people. There's still a long way to go for our cultural sector to recover, but we're heartened and fueled by your generosity, friendship and love of animals," said Woodland Park Zoo President and CEO Dr. Alejandro Grajal. "For many years, we've had these beautiful and important relationships with partners like the Ballet. This year feels like a wonderful time to celebrate and share that with our community because it's a great way to show that we're all in this together."

Pantastico and Moore will perform as the title characters in PNB's production of *Roméo et Juliette*, streaming February 11–15 as part of its all-digital 2020-2021 season. Pantastico joyfully posing with penguins was a nod to the classic love story, as penguins are known to mate for life. Moore had fun near the felines, inspired by his son's love of tigers and lions.

As a special bonus to the pictures, check out PNB and Woodland Park Zoo social media for behind-the-scenes video to see how these images were captured! You can also keep track of the Wild at Heart photos throughout the 12-month series at www.zoo.org/together (Photo credit: Jeremy Dwyer Lindgren/Woodland Park Zoo; Video credit: Noel Pederson, PNB).

In addition to their roles with PNB, Pantastico and Moore are also Founding Artistic Directors of Seattle Dance Collective (SDC), founded in 2019 to create unique collaborative opportunities for dancers and choreographers. Through thought-provoking and unconventional programming, SDC aims to provide the community with new access to the transformative power of dance. For more information, visit www.SeattleDanceCollective.org

PNB and Woodland Park Zoo are both members of Inspire Washington, a statewide coalition that champions advocacy and resource development for Washington's cultural sector, and works to strengthen communities by increasing access to science, heritage and arts. Learn more about Inspire Washington at www.inspirewashington.org

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