



BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE



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VIVA!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Performing Arts Management
Brigham Young University

306 Hinckley Alumni and Visitors Center, Provo, UT 84604
801-422-3576 • perform@byu.edu • pam.byu.edu

Recently marking its 40th anniversary, Contemporary Dance Theatre presents its new show, Viva!, which celebrates life and dance. The show invites the audience to discover the importance of coming to know themselves and those around them. Both fun and heartfelt, Viva! inspires through expressive dance, uplifting music, and a vibrant atmosphere.

Contemporary Dance Theatre performs across the country and around the world. The company has been to over thirteen countries and was the first international university group invited to the National Beijing Arts Festival in 2014. On tour, the company reaches out to all people wherever they go through both performances and educational outreach activities.

Contemporary Dance Theatre is produced by the Department of Dance in the College of Fine Arts and Communications at Brigham Young University.

"They expressed the entire process of "encounter" – from strangers to friends, from reluctance to acceptance, until lasting harmony is achieved. The students' performance was genuine, pristine and moved the audience to tears."

WANG WEI

Vice President of Dance at the Beijing Dance Academy, China

"The dancers deliver some joyously unconfined choreography. One feels buoyed by their genuine vigor and unflagging force of energy...It is, every minute of it, thoroughly charming."

SJOERD MEIJER

Arts Director, Daily News, Durban, South Africa

"Their preparation was very professional, so it resulted that their performances were really precise and could be admired from both the artistic and technical sides. Their interpretation was excellent and I think they were able to adapt to all dance styles."

DAVID POSPÍŠIL

Director of the New Prague Dance Festival, Czech Republic

Repertoire

CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE

2015-2016 Season

Brigham Young University

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VIVA!

ALOUETTE (2016)

With an explosion of colorful fun, the dancers perform in their own favorite way, making “Alouette” the Instagram of dances.

Music by Broadway Puppies

SHADOW DANCE (2016)

An exploration of light, shadow, and the stories we create.

BLACKBIRD (2014)

This dance is about teamwork and collaboration. The dancers weave in and out of each other, like birds carried in the wind—but always with a sense of peace and purpose.

Music by The Beatles arranged by Time for Three

TAPPIN’ AND SWINGIN’ (2015)

This lively tap number explores the exciting combination of traditional tap dance and swing, which are great on their own, but fit so well together!

Music by Tape Five

(more)

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CARRYING SAMSONITE (2014)

“Carrying Samsonite” is a dance that asks each viewer, “What is the baggage you carry?”. We are all attached to grudges, habits, and regrets that we need help getting rid of.

Music by Book on Tapeworm and Leonard Cohen, covered by Time for Three

FLING, FLANG, FLUNG (2011)

“Fling, Flang, Flung” captures the nostalgia and lure of partner dancing from days gone by, with clever twists and surprises for modern times. You’ll find yourself tapping your toes and bouncing in your seat as the dancers “fling” and are “flung” around the floor.

Music by Louis Prima and arranged by Ralph Laycock

ORDINARY FESTIVALS (1985)

In our family units, no matter the type or size, we all have crazy and inventive traditions. “Ordinary Festivals” reminds us of our own traditions within our families and the numerous ways we show our love. Enjoy the sometimes silly, sometimes awkward, and sometimes exciting movement moments.

Music compilation

REAL SONG (2015)

We all need to kick back sometimes and enjoy life. Let loose and be free to dance in your seat to this hip-hop number while the dancers break it down up front.

Music by C2C

EVERYBODY HURTS (2014)

In the beginning of this piece, the dancers shove, step on, and frankly abuse each other. However, as the piece progresses, they rely upon, hold, and carry each other. Yes, we all hurt, but we also have the capacity to help each other overcome the hurt.

Music by R.E.M.

(more)

RAPTURE (2013)

The movement in this joyful dance is full and sweeping, capturing rapture's entirety of emotion.

This dance suggests that rapture happens when people are surrounded by those they love.

Music by My Chemical Romance and Paramore, covered by Vitamin String Quartet

SEED (2015)

Ideas are sparked in the brain, taking root and developing until they are fully formed.

Music by Max Richter

FORMING IN (2015)

As though the dancers were submersed in water, "Forming In" plays with the rise and fall of a body influenced by the pull of tempo. Bodies moving against the resistance of water undergo enhanced physical awareness and the water allows their forms to expand and distort.

Music by Ólafur Arnalds

I LIVED (2015)

An anthem to life, this dance suggests that we can be brave and overcome challenges by facing our demons, bonding together, and changing the world.

Music by OneRepublic

Additional information:

Find us at www.facebook.com/BYUContemporaryDanceTheatre!

(more)

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Quotes

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“Their preparation was very professional, so it resulted that their performances were really precise and could be admired from both the artistic and technical sides. Their interpretation was excellent and I think they were able to adapt to all dance styles.”

David Pospíšil, Director of the New Prague Dance Festival, Czech Republic

“They expressed the entire process of “encounter” – from strangers to friends, from reluctance to acceptance, until lasting harmony is achieved. The students’ performance was genuine, pristine and moved the audience to tears.”

Wang Wei, Vice President of Dance at the Beijing Dance Academy, China

“BYU dancers move about with ease and comfort with their bodies, and the trust and confidence that they displayed in their partners made the dance feel friendly and uplifting.”

Chitra Shridha, Bharatanatyam dancer, India

“A performance brimming with fanciful movement and visual delights.”

China Daily News Web (CDNNews), Taiwan

“The dancers deliver some joyously unconfined choreography. One feels buoyed by their genuine vigor and unflagging force of energy...It is, every minute of it, thoroughly charming.”

Sjoerd Meijer, Arts Director, Daily News, Durban, South Africa

“The performance was great. The people attending enjoyed it and many commented they had never seen anything of that quality. Make sure [Contemporary Dance Theatre] knows how much we appreciate the performance.”

Mr. Allred, Coimbatore, India

“The [Contemporary Dance Theatre] event was very well received by the audience. The hall was jam-packed and the applause was thunderous each time the performers completed a dance. The dancers have an amazing sense of imagination, innovation, and also creativity. To sum it all, I should say they are awesome!”

Satya Murthy, Hyderabad, India,

“The lives of our friends out there were enriched and the dancers were deeply affected. The combination of performance and education is terrific. The performers open the doors and then when they meet with people and teach, as they did the children, lives become richer. This was the first time such a group has ever gone to a village in India and it has made a difference.”

Roy Welty, Bangalore, India

“A marvelous performing company...high professional standards and experience...a dance repertoire that everyone in the community as well as the dancers can enjoy.”

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Roberta Bristol, Chairman of Dance, Cabrillo College, Aptos, California

“BYU really is so well trained in teaching and not just performing. The staff at our school was really in awe at how the dancers were able to involve the students.”

Colleen Twede, California

Tour History

CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE

2015-2016 Season

Brigham Young University

Contact: Performing Arts Management
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2015-16	Nevada, California
2014-15	Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Germany
2013-14	China
2012-13	Colorado
2011-12	India
2009-10	Montana, Wyoming
2008-09	Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan
2007-08	New Mexico, Texas
2006-07	Puerto Rico, The Dominican Republic, Jamaica
2005-06	Nevada, California
2004-05	Oregon, Washington Thailand, Cambodia, Taiwan
2003-04	New Mexico, Texas
2002-03	California, Arizona
2001-02	Arizona, Utah
2000-01	India
1999-00	Northern California
1998-99	Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan
1997-98	Southern California, Arizona Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.

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1996-97 Wyoming, Montana, Idaho
Philippines, Korea

1995-96 Nevada, Northern California

1994-95 Idaho, Oregon, Washington
Australia

1993-94 New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland,
Washington D.C., Connecticut
Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.

1992-93 Utah, Southern California, Nevada
South Africa

1991-92 Idaho, Washington

1990-91 Washington D.C., Virginia

1989-90 Wyoming, Montana
Israel, Turkey

1988-89 Southern California

1987-88 Argentina, Chile, Uruguay

1986-87 Arizona, New Mexico

1984-85 Southern California
Philippines, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, Hawaii
Jordan (Jerash Festival)

1982-83 Hawaii
Iowa

1981-82 Florida, Puerto Rico

1980-81 Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico

1979-80 Minnesota

1978-79 Southern California

1977-78 Northern California

1976-77 Nevada

(end)

Fact Sheet

CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE

2015 – 2016 Season

Brigham Young University

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- Contemporary Dance Theatre performs from a wide modern dance repertoire, including dramatic, jazz, humorous, and lyrical works choreographed by nationally recognized choreographers, as well as past and present company directors.
- The group is presenting a brand new show this year titled *Viva!*, which celebrates life and dance. It invites the audience to discover the importance of coming to know themselves and those around them.
- The company is under the artistic direction of Nathan Balser, a professor in BYU's Dance Department.
- The Contemporary Dance Theatre recently returned from a tour of Europe, participating in festivals and public performances with their production titled *Encounters*.
- Company members are tutored by master teachers and professional dancers. These young people are prepared to teach as well as perform, and share the joy of movement with hundreds of students through innovative dance workshops for all ages and abilities.
- In November 2014 the group performed in Beijing, China in the National Center for the Performing Arts to a capacity audience.
- In February of 2013, the dancers took their moving performance *The Thing About Love* to Colorado, and performed in many cities throughout the state.
- During the summer of 2012, the Contemporary Dance Theatre traveled to India for a three week performance tour. Through workshops and outreaches, the company shared its dance aesthetic throughout India where contemporary dance is an emerging style of dance.
- In October 2009, the company brought their joy in movement to Montana and Wyoming. Later that year they toured the Midwestern United States, including performances in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. Other tour destinations have included New Mexico and Texas, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica.
- Contemporary Dance Theatre is one of the most widely toured university-based modern dance companies in the United States. Since its creation in 1974, the company has toured throughout the United States and in 17 countries around the world. Tour locations include:
- Contemporary Dance Theatre originates in the Department of Dance of the College of Fine Arts and Communications at Brigham Young University. BYU is one of the nation's largest private universities with an

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enrollment of 30,000 students from across the United States and more than 100 foreign countries.

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Articles

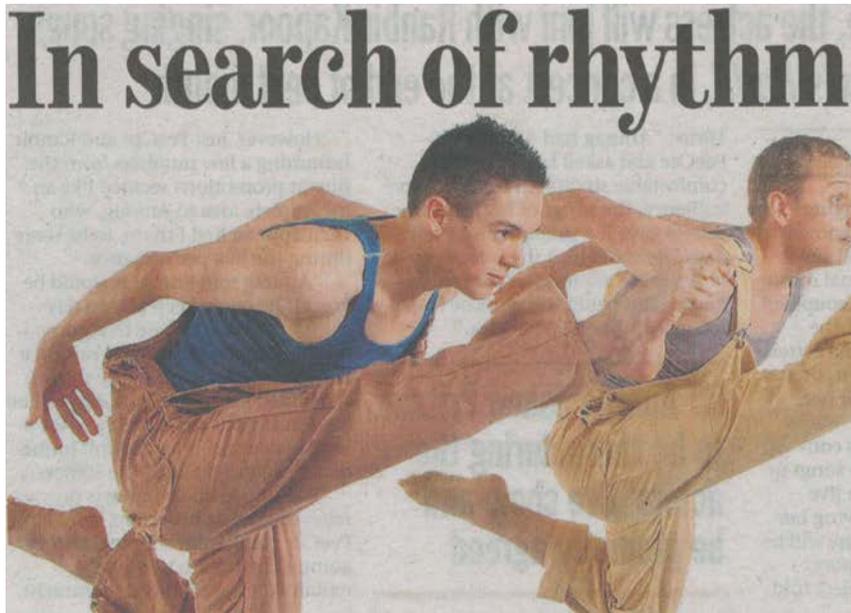
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December 2014

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Article from *Bangalore Mirror*, in
Bangalore, India (July 31, 2012)



In search of rhythm

They are a 16-member troupe, coming all the way from Utah, US, to Bangalore to showcase the *Rhythm of Life*. Contemporary Dance Theatre (CDT) from Brigham Young University will present a visual and kinetic feast with dances ranging in style from contemporary dance to hip-hop. CDT is one of the most widely toured university-based contemporary dance companies in the US.

CDT originated in the Department of Dance of the College of Fine Arts and Communication at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. The group's artistic director, Pat Debernham, has worked with the students of the university for more than 30 years. Bringing them to the city is the International Music & Arts Society (IMAS) which was founded in 1974 by Rani Vijaya Devi Kotda Sangani as suggested by her brother, the late Maharaja of Mysore, Sri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar. The society has, over the years, organised programmes independently and also in association with embassies and other cultural centres.

You can catch the high-powered show on August 2 at Chowdiah Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm.

For passes contact: 41513037/
38; 22667333 or Alliance Francaise, Vasanthnagar

Article from *Deccan Herald*, in
Bangalore, India (August 2, 2012)

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'Rhythm of...'

▶ The International Music and Arts Society will present 'Rhythm of Life' by the 'Contemporary Dance Theatre' from Brigham University on August 2, 7.30 pm at Chowdiah Memorial Hall. It will be a visual and kinetic feast with dances that range in style from contemporary to hip-hop.

Invitations will be available at select Fastrack venues and at the Alliance Francaise. For details, call 41122472, 22862246.

FLEXIBLE The artistes from Brigham University.



Article from *The Times of India*, in Chennai, India (August 9, 2012)

DANCING TO THE RHYTHM OF LIFE

A Prathap



MOVERS AND SHAKERS: Brigham Young University's Contemporary Dance Theatre performs 'Rhythm of Life' at Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Hall at Chetpet on Wednesday. This is their second second visit to India since 2001. Formerly known as the Dancers' Company, the Contemporary Dance Theatre, is BYU's premier modern dance group and was formed in 1975

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Brigham Young University

presents

Contemporary Dance Theatre

High resolution versions of these photos and more are available online at <http://pam.byu.edu/>.



News Release

CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE

2015 – 2016 Season

Brigham Young University

General

Contact: Performing Arts Management
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brigham Young University's Contemporary Dance Theatre is unveiling their new show *Viva!* in the 2015-2016 performance season. It explores human emotions and moments through moving, visual art accompanied by uplifting and meaningful music. *Viva!*, which serves to seek and discover the depth of the importance of coming to know ourselves and those around us, will be performed at (place) on (date) at (time) .

Through expression and representation, the dancers perform numbers that are great in technique and direction. Lighting, setting, props, and costumes play a significant part in the compositions, where it all ties together to bring a frame of symbolism to the audience. Contemporary Dance Theatre draws on a new perspective that can be reached through people from all walks of life. Coming straight from Broadway, this is Nathan Balser's second show as artistic director of Contemporary Dance Theatre. With his professional background, he has helped the group grasp a new and creative approach to the contemporary dance genre. Being inspired by other prestigious choreographers, such as the nationally-recognized Peter Chu and Ihsan Rustem, Contemporary Dance Theatre creates a show that is remembered and discussed long after finale music fades.

The group implements audience favorites within their new show. This includes *Fling Flang Flung*, which captures the nostalgia of days gone by, and *Rapture*, Nathan Balser's own choreography that portrays the happy encounters and love of those closest to us. *Viva!* also incorporates new choreography, such as *Forming In*, that plays with physical awareness and a range of movement influenced by tempo, and *I Lived*, an anthem to life that encourages the audience to be brave and face their fears.

(more)

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Company members are not only known for their sparkling and dramatic performances, but also for their teaching abilities within schools and community centers. Whether they are on stage or in a school surrounded by inquisitive children, these young artists strive to celebrate the best in humankind through dance. BYU has one of the largest dance departments in the U.S., and consequently takes pride in sharing its love of the performing arts through traveling groups such as Contemporary Dance Theatre.

Since its founding in 1974, the company has performed in the Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, Germany, Argentina, Chile, Japan, the Philippines, Korea, Turkey, Israel, South Africa, and Australia. Contemporary Dance Theatre has toured in the Eastern United States and was selected twice by the American College Dance Festival to perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

In November 2013, Contemporary Dance Theatre was the first non-Asian international university dance group to be invited to perform at the Chun Hua Qiu Shi Festival at the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing, China. In summer of 2015, Contemporary Dance Theatre toured the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, and Germany. In Prague, they participated in the New Prague Dance Festival in which they won the Grand Prix Award given to the best overall group. The company also participated in workshops taught by prestigious university professors and did outreach programs in which they shared, with children and adults alike, the positive feeling that comes with dance. In 2016, the group will visit cities in Utah, California, and Nevada.

Contemporary Dance Theatre originates in the Department of Dance of the College of Fine Arts and Communications at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. BYU is one of the nation's largest private universities with an enrollment of 30,000 students from across the United States and 100 foreign countries.

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News Release

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2015 – 2016 Season

Brigham Young University

Artistic Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brigham Young University welcomes home Broadway performer and contemporary dance artist, Nathan Balsler as director and choreographer the BYU Contemporary Dance Theatre. This season Balsler is premiering his second BYU production, *Viva!*.

Balsler works with the students at Brigham Young University as both a teacher and a mentor in the dance department. His experience on national and international stages provides an extensive background upon which he can draw both creative measures and practical technique to educate BYU's dancers.

Balsler performed as a member of internationally-known Repertory Dance Theatre, a company dedicated to representing and preserving dance history, including the world's largest collection of American dance. His work has also put him on stage with world-renowned dancer and choreographer Molissa Fenley, as well as John Malashock and company; both of whom have choreographed over 70 works.

In addition to his demanding schedule as a performer, Balsler continued to develop his own skills as a choreographer. He has developed a significant number of dances which have been performed internationally. He also helped in the organization and development of the Utah Conservatory of the Performing Arts, a studio dedicated to training and encouraging up-coming performing artists. Balsler impresses upon his students the desire and motivation to be dance artists of the future and to continue the high performance standards of the group. He brings that same drive to expand the vision of Contemporary Dance Theatre by providing a blended showcase of art and entertainment that lifts and shares a touching message to audiences worldwide.

Balsler graduated from Brigham Young University in 1998 with a degree in Therapeutic Recreation, after which he went on to receive a master's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Utah. In addition to his

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contemporary dance experience, he has performed in many Broadway productions, and performed in four consecutive Tony Award shows. His casting credits place him alongside famous musical theatre actresses Kristen Chenoweth, Allyson Janney, and Cheyenne Jackson. Experience from *9 to 5: The Musical*, *Damn Yankees*, and *Legally Blonde* add to his musical theatre repertoire. He strives now to teach his students what he believes to be the most important lesson he learned under the national spotlights: professionalism. This work ethic is reflected not only in his teaching methods but in the technique and discipline of his students.

Since its creation in 1974, Contemporary Dance Theatre has performed in Argentina, Chile, Japan, the Philippines, Korea, Turkey, Israel, South Africa, and Australia. In November of 2013, Contemporary Dance Theatre participated in the Chun Hua Qiu Shi Festival at the National Center for the Performing Arts, in Beijing, China, as the first non-Asian international university dance group invited to perform in this festival. The group closed the festival with their full-length performance, *Encounters*. In addition, Contemporary Dance Theatre has toured in the Eastern United States and was twice selected by the American College Dance Festival to perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. In 2015, the group participated in the New Prague Dance Festival and took home the Grand Prix award, given to the best overall company.

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