
News Release

CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE

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Brigham Young University

General

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brigham Young University's Contemporary Dance Theatre is unveiling their new show *Encounters* in the 2014-2015 performance season. Through dance and music, *Encounters* explores the different forms of communication and interactions we as humans experience, especially through the distinctions of western and eastern cultures. Often, communication serves as a catalyst for either the improvement or deterioration of relationships both with individuals and with nations; *Encounters* serves to explore and discover the depth of the importance of coming to know ourselves and those around us, which will be performed at (place) on (date) at (time).

With a balance of light hearted performances and moving choreography, this show is one that will touch audience members from all walks of life. Group numbers including anywhere from six members to the full company help to broaden friendships across borders as they dance between cultures. Coming straight from Broadway, this is Nathan Balser's first year 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. With other prestigious choreographers such as the nationally-recognized Ivan Pulinkala and Ihsan Rustem, the Contemporary Dance Theatre creates a show that is remembered and discussed long after finale music fades.

The group loves to perform audience favorites. This includes *I Was Here*, which expresses every person's desire to leave his personal mark on the world, *Hambone for Two* where the performers encounter each other through rhythmic competition and flirtation, and *The Boxes, Me and the Sound* where dancers take the American art form of tap dance to a new audience-pleasing level.

Company members are not only known for their sparkling and dramatic performances, but also for their

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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 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 April and May of 2009, Contemporary Dance Theatre toured the Midwestern United States including performances in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. Among their performances were lecture demonstrations for schools throughout the area and a workshop held in an inner city performing arts school in Detroit. Contemporary Dance Theatre plans to visit the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, and Germany for their summer 2015 tour.

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 120 foreign countries.

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