

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

Living Legends



STORYTELLERS



PROLOGUE

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Kaika Cole, Moni Tiatia, Aileen Villalba*

MUSIC: *"Storytellers Prologue," by Sam Cardon*

Lullaby

MUSIC: *"My Son," by Carnes Burson, Arlene Nofchissey Williams, additional lyrics by Jamie Kalama Wood, arranged by Sam Cardon*

North America

PLAINS

Eagle

The eagle, which flies highest and nearest to our Creator, is sacred to natives of North America. Embodying strength, courage, and wisdom, the eagle shows us that we have the ability to develop the same qualities. This Eagle dance honors the story of creation and beginning.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Dusty Jansen, Bryan Jansen*

MUSIC: *"Eagle" (traditional)*



Samoa

Falealili / Sāsā / Men's Siva

The spirit of the Samoan people is encapsulated in the anthem of Falealili, an inspiring expression of pride, courage, unity, and love for the homeland—retold in the grace and beauty of the Siva. Delight for life's intensity and passion is celebrated through the fast-paced movements of the Sāsā and the agile display of strength in the Men's Siva.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Auro Sosi, Teancum Kaitoku, Noelani Apelu, Lea Taylor, Tallin Kaitoku, Le La O Samoa Dance Group*

MUSIC: *"Falealili," recorded by Kaioz Music; "Sāsā" (traditional), performed live; "Saleutogi E," by Mr Tee*

Ecuador

San Juanito

In the city of Otavalo, the community comes together each summer for the festival of San Juanito. As food and music fill the air, all come to celebrate and rejoice.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Efrain Villalobos; restaging by Ben Lopez*

MUSIC: *"Tzini Tushuy," by Ali Lema; "Sanjuanitos," by Walter Arturo Juárez*



North America

PLAINS

Grass

As the men perform the Omaha Grass dance, the dancers imitate the movement of the tall, flowing, sweet grass—symbolizing the connection between humanity and nature. Their story is one of laying a pathway to keep others safe as they follow. It reminds us that as we follow the path, we can find joy by traveling with others.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Kawai Lucio*

MUSIC: "Grass Song," by Grey Hawk Singers

Paraguay

El Pájaro Campana

El Pájaro Campana is the national bird of Paraguay, and its dance tells the story of liberty. In the mythology, Tupá (God) turned the bell tower of a Jesuit church into a white bird, whose sound resembles a bell. By following this bird, you will always know which way to go.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Aileen Villalba*

MUSIC: "El Pájaro Campana," by Damian Girett, Los Misioneros Paraguayos



Hawai'i

Kahiko

This hula Kahiko revolves around the central theme that in the face of darkness and challenges, there is a prevailing sense of hope and resilience. The land was forged by lava, a destructive force that demolished everything in its path, but as it cools, a beautiful lehua blossom is the first thing to spring forth life. Even though we cannot see the flower at first, we can still smell its fragrance. We acknowledge those who came before us and paved the way, and know that even though we no longer see them, we can feel their spirit through the land.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Kamailelani Grace, Tallin Kaitoku*

MUSIC: *"Noho Ana Ke 'Ala Anuhea" (traditional), performed live*

North America

Women's Fancy

The Women's Fancy dance tells the story of the powerful crow and the emergence of the butterfly as they learn to stretch their wings and fly. As they take flight, they begin a new direction in life.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Melia Losik*

MUSIC: *"Women's Fancy Pt. 2," by Midnight Express at Gathering of Nations*



Tahiti

'Ote'a

Through 'Ori Tahiti we share how we travel through life learning step-by-step. The movements show that, as we work together in unity, we are strengthened.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Sage Purcell, Tallin Kaitoku

MUSIC: "Tamure Moorea Lagon," by O Tahiti E; "Taurira'a," by SefaDrums

Peru

Festejo

The Afro-Peruvian music and drums drive this energetic number. Originally danced by African slaves searching for relief from discrimination and exclusion, this choreography tells the story of a young girl who finds freedom as she learns to dance the Festejo.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Efrain Villalobos; restaging by Ben Lopez, Ivette Galvez Laparra, Piero Gongora

MUSIC: "Saca la Mano," by Eva Ayllón



North America

OJIBWE, PONCA

Jingle / Men's Fancy

To the Ojibwe tribe, the Jingle dance is a dance of healing. As the women dancers move, they send prayers to the heavens. We have combined the Jingle dance with Men's Fancy to declare that as we stand together for what is right, we can bring strength, healing, and honor to the world.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Kelina Anderson, Kiona Lucio*

MUSIC: *"Jingle Dress Straight," by Grey Buffalo; "What U Got," remix by Young Bird*

Bolivia

Caporales

The story of the dance Caporales is one of celebrating the sacrifice of those who have gone before. In their honor, the caporales use their elaborate costume to represent the strength and pride that has grown from within.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Gabriela Grajeda, Diandra Saravia, Ricardo Tolentino*

MUSIC: *"La Fiesta de San Benito," by Inti-Illimani; "La Saya," "Soy Caporal," by Tupay*



Aotearoa (New Zealand)

Whakaeke: He Tātai Whetū ki te Rangi /

Waiata ā Ringa and Poi: He Kāinga Hou /

Haka: He Aka Tangata

The ancestors call the young travelers to traverse the waters to a new land. As they face trials and challenges, they are reminded to hold continually and to not fear death. Chaos and confusion cannot reign as the travelers are lovingly reminded, "You are descended from celestial beings."

CHOREOGRAPHY: Seamus Fitzgerald, Karly Nikora, Ta'afili Sagapolutele

MUSIC: "Whakaeke," by Seamus Fitzgerald; "Waiata," by Iraia Bailey, Seamus Fitzgerald, arranged by Jackson Kaka, accompanied by Dezhane Te Hira-Ika; "Haka," by Seamus Fitzgerald, performed live

North America

**HAUDENOSAUNEE
(IROQUOIS)**

Smoke

As the dancers hear the call to battle, the warriors prepare using the competitive War dance. The energy builds as men and women join in the quick and athletic Smoke dance. As the warriors begin their journey, the women look forward with hope.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Melia Losik, Kelina Anderson

MUSIC: "Iroquois War and Smoke" (traditional), recorded by Bill Crouse



Argentina

Malambo

The Malambo dancer is a master of footwork. Combining rhythm, agility, speed, and strength, dancers build upon the energy of the drum. Though traditionally performed as a men's number, this powerful choreography tells the story that strength and agility are found in us all.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Diego Franco, Pablo Daniel*

MUSIC: *"Malambo" (traditional), arranged by Diego Franco*

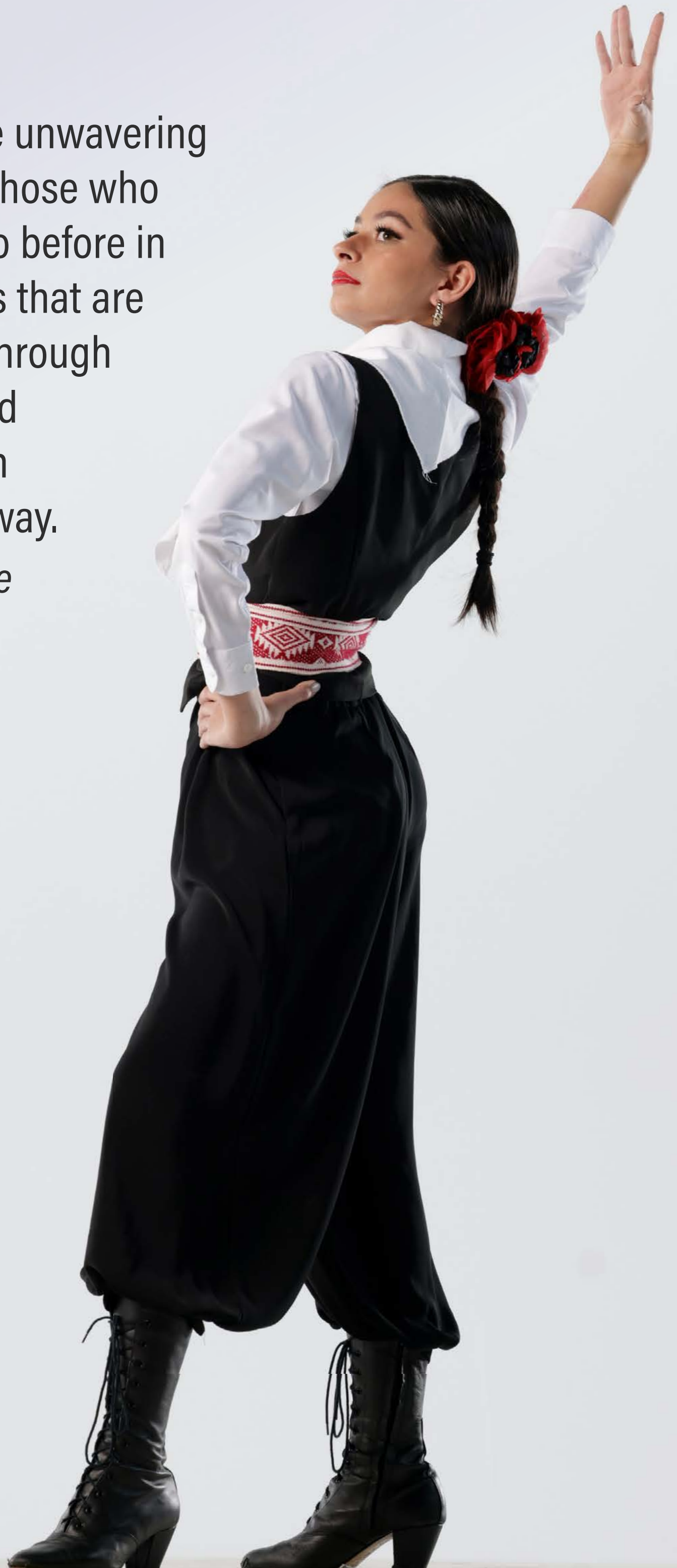
Hawai'i

Auana

This beautiful Auana speaks of the unwavering love of those yearning to be with those who are dear to their hearts. As they go before in battle, they reminisce on the times that are truly cherished with loved ones. Through a graceful portrayal of motions and expression, the Polynesian women represent a love given and sent away.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Kamailelani Grace*

MUSIC: *"Waika," by Malihini*



México

AZTEC

Kuitlaxokotl Tlauili

The Kuitlaxokotl Tlauili dance is a representation of the people of Aztlan, named the Aztecs. Their ritual sounds were considered the voice of the gods. Through their beautiful music and corporal movements, we experience the story of “the fruit of light,” reminding us to seek the light through Mother Earth and spiritual connection in times of darkness.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Mario Gamez*

MUSIC: “Kuitlaxokotl Tlauili (Fruit of Light),” by *Los Hermanos de los Andes*

North America

DINÉ (NAVAJO)

Bow and Arrow

By honoring the stories of past warriors, this dance reverences the bow and arrow for providing sustenance and protection. As the dancers face different corners, they keep the balance of the four sacred directions. They are admonished to “dance in beauty.”

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Jerad Todacheenie*

MUSIC: “Santa Ana Bow and Arrow Dance,”
by *Ed Lee Natay*



Tonga

Tau'olunga / Mako

With words and actions, the graceful dancers tell their story of light. This story celebrates the joy of the Tongan people and the blessings that have been received from heaven.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Kuata Vainikolo*

MUSIC: *"Ke Tulou Moe," by Teine Latu; "lo 'lo 'lo," by Hiva Tonga*

México

JALISCO

Mariachi / La Negra

The energetic music and dance from the state of Jalisco capture the soul of México. The powerful and patriotic movements tell the story of grace and elegance combined with power and love for one's home.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Miguel Angel Peña*

MUSIC: *"La Charreada," by Linda Ronstadt; "El Son de la Negra" (traditional), recorded by Los Hermanos de los Andes*

VOCALIST: *Paloma Castillo*



North America

Hoop

The hoop symbolizes eternity to many nations. As a child learns to dance the Hoop dance, they begin with only one hoop until, over time, they master many hoops. As they do, dancers learn to share the creations of Mother Earth and the power of the Great Spirit through their dance.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Kelina Anderson*

MUSIC: *"Kanawapamih," by Young Spirit*

FINALE: Go, My Son

As the child becomes the parent, he continues to be taught by the ancestors. He hears the words once spoken by a wise chief—teaching that family, honor, work, and education are the keys to success and happiness.

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Kaika Cole, Moni Tiatia, Aileen Villalba*

MUSIC: *"Go, My Son," by Carnes Burson, Arlene Nofchissey Williams, arranged by Sam Cardon*



Performers



Kelina Anderson
Native American Section
Art History and
Curatorial Studies
Spanish Fork, UT



Isabel Benjamin
Latin Section
Health Science
Provo, UT



Treygan Bragg
Native American Section
Biology
Salmon, ID



Auli'i Camacho
Polynesian Section
Global Supply Chain
Management
Pearl City, HI



Paloma Castillo
Latin Section
Marketing
Norfolk, NE



Kui Eldredge
Polynesian Section
Music
Mānoa Valley, HI



Celeste Escárzaga
Latin Section
Experience Design and
Management
Chihuahua, México



Ivette Galvez Laparra
Latin Section
Journalism
Guatemala City,
Guatemala



Piero Gongora
Latin Section
Finance
Chimbote, Peru



Kamailelani Grace
Polynesian Section
Experience Design and
Management
Mililani, HI



Gabriella Green
Native American Section
Exercise and Wellness
Seattle, WA



Clay Naat'aanii Iverson
Native American Section
Civil Engineering
Las Vegas, NV



Joshua Johnson
Latin Section
Acting
San Antonio, TX



Tallin Kaitoku
Polynesian Section
Communications Studies
Laie, HI



Hinckley Kennach
Polynesian Section
Accounting
Tacoma, WA



Benjamin Lopez
Latin Section
Information Systems
Orlando, FL

Performers

CONTINUED



Cami Losik

Native American Section
Psychology
Layton, UT



Melia Losik

Native American Section
Graphic Design
Layton, UT



Leina'ala Morse

Polynesian Section
Communications Studies
Kailua, HI



Melissa Ogden

Native American Section
Elementary Education
Orem, UT



Antonio Ordaz

Native American Section
Exercise Science
Detroit, MI



Sage Purcell

Polynesian Section
Business
San Bernardino, CA



Fernando Ramos

Latin Section
Global Supply Chain
Management
La Paz, Bolivia



Isaac Rascon

Latin Section
Journalism and
Sports Media
Houston, TX



Gabriela Ruiz

Latin Section
Graphic Design
Provo, UT



Helaman Sosi

Polynesian Section
Business
West Jordan, UT



Ryan Tsosie

Native American Section
Mechanical Engineering
Glendora, CA



Sarai Tuitele

Polynesian Section
Early Childhood
Education
Kāne'ohe, HI



Reihana Wilson

Polynesian Section
Journalism
Brighton, CO



Aaron Xanthos

Native American Section
Communications
Beaverton, OR

Technical Crew



Rosie Aguirre
Deck Crew and Costumes
Tourism Studies
Bridgeport, IL



Kathryn Bowe
Deck Crew
Biology
Ephrata, PA



Erica Flynn
Stage Manager
Illustration
Jacksonville, FL



Taj Joaquin
Deck Crew
Health Science
Wailuku, HI



Aubreelyn Schuck
Lighting Technician
Theatre Arts Studies
Clifton Park, NY



Tahina Wasson
Stitcher
Health Science
Kahuku, HI

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jamie Kalama Wood

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Kevin Anthony

AUDIO TECHNICIAN

Tiffany Parker

REHEARSAL DIRECTORS

Kaika Cole

Moni Tiatia

Aileen Villalba

ARTIST MANAGER

Taylor Morris

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@BYULivingLegends

TAP TO VISIT



Living Legends

Celebrating more than 50 years of inspiring performances, Living Legends presents *Storytellers*, a depiction of a young man as he is guided through life by the stories of his ancestors, told through their music and dance. As the talented performers take the stage, they capture the powerful rhythms of Polynesia, portray the fascinating legends of Native America, and dazzle the senses with the energy of Latin America. The group's lavish attire and intricate choreography are authentic representations of the showcased cultures.

Living Legends had the pleasure of performing in México in 2022 and in New Zealand and Tahiti in 2023, places where many group members have ancestors. In addition to these locations, Living Legends has performed in almost all 50 US states and many places throughout the world, including recent tours in China, Brazil, Germany, and Switzerland.

Brigham Young University

Nestled between Utah Lake and the Rocky Mountains, Brigham Young University seeks to develop students of faith, intellect, and character who are committed to learning and serving throughout their lives. Both highly ranked and highly affordable, BYU is a major research institution that offers global opportunities for experiential learning. The university is home to about 35,000 students who come from more than 100 countries. Founded by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, BYU strives to be an exceptional university for the benefit of the world.

BYU



Living Legends

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