
News Release

BALLROOM DANCE COMPANY

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Brigham Young University

General

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Brigham Young University's Ballroom Dance Company has known victory and acclaim throughout the world since its formation in 1971, and was also the 2013 British National Champion at the prestigious Blackpool Dance Festival in England. As well as their international success, they are the current USA Champions in both Ballroom formation and Latin formation dance. The team has won competitions and astounded audiences worldwide with a variety of showpieces renowned for precision, beauty, and skill. The internationally traveled dance company will bring its world champion showcase *Capture the Magic* to _____ (place) _____ on _____ (date) _____ at _____ (time) _____.

Capture the Magic treats audiences to a spectacular variety of dances, including gliding waltzes, playful swing dances, and dramatic, high-energy Latin dances. A special black-light number and the team's competition medleys give additional appeal to the showcase. The dancers engage the audience with pieces that flow between elegant forms and fast-paced rhythms accompanied with amazing, colorful costumes and dramatic choreography.

The most recent tour took place this last October with the company travelling and performing throughout Arizona. And this past summer the dance company took their show to various cities around China including Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Hong Kong among others. But notably in the summer of 2013 the company traveled to Blackpool, England to compete again in the British Formation and Latin formation competitions and was victorious—winning first place in each category. The BYU Ballroom Dance Company even received a standing ovation at the conclusion of their competition performance, which co-director Linda Wakefield says has never “happened for a formation team before. It was a magical moment, truly magical.” In preparation for this competitive ballroom festival, the BYU team practiced tirelessly to perfect their new Latin and Ballroom

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formation routines. After their victory in Blackpool, the Ballroom Dance Company toured and entertained audiences throughout England, Germany, and Switzerland. While in Germany, the Ballroom Dance Company held a benefit concert and raised a total of 75,000 euros to be donated to two local charities. Tour Manager Rex Barrington said “many of the group’s performances were benefit performances...but that is the most money I’ve ever seen contributed at one of their performances.”

Whether performing in the United States or abroad, the group leaves a distinct impression of professionalism. After one of their performances in St. Petersburg, Russia, Dr. Alex Zapesotski said, “As president of the St. Petersburg Humanities University, I have traveled around the world—to London, Tokyo, Paris—and have never seen a production of your high artistic standard and spirit.”

The Ballroom Dance Company also traveled to Nauvoo, Illinois in the summer of 2012. In 2011 they were well received in Thailand and Vietnam, where they performed nine times, gave TV interviews and tapings, and presented their show for Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali of Thailand. Earlier tours took the group to England, Hong Kong, and China. The company performed in the Cultural Olympiad of the 2008 Olympic Games in 2008. In all, the BYU Ballroom Dance Company has traveled to 36 countries of the world, often returning several times to showcase their talent, help communities, and build unity throughout the world.

Lee and Linda Wakefield, the artistic directors of the Ballroom Dance Company, both hold memberships in the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance and have degrees in Standard and Latin dancing. The husband-and-wife duo has inspired a more than 30-years of excellence in the company.

The Ballroom Dance Company 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 more than 30,000 full-time students from throughout the United States and 120 foreign countries.

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