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# Fact Sheet

## BALLROOM DANCE COMPANY

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Brigham Young University

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- The ensemble is known worldwide for its exciting and energetic performances. Their 90-minute showcase, *Capture the Magic*, features a wide variety of dances ranging from the Viennese Waltz to the West Coast Swing and including solo, small group, and full company numbers. The showcase includes theatre arts dancing, formation medleys, and light-hearted fun.
- The Ballroom Dance Company most recent tours included Arizona this past October with an international tour in China this past summer visiting Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong among others.
- The summer the company will return to perform in Nauvoo, Illinois; an area they performed in before in the summer of 2012. The group will also present special interactive programs at city care centers and public venues during their stay.
- The dancers combine traditional formation dances and standard ballroom steps with fresh choreography, breathtaking lifts and spins, stunning costumes, and energetic melodies in a show which delights and entertains audiences of all ages.
- Lee and Linda Wakefield have directed the BYU Ballroom Dance Company since 1980 and have gained the university an international reputation of having the largest collegiate ballroom dance program in the world.
- Formed in 1971, the Ballroom Dance Company has performed in 37 of the United States and in 36 foreign countries throughout Europe, East Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, South Africa, and the South Pacific.
- The group competed in the international Blackpool Dance Festival in England in June 2013. There the group's competition teams took first place in both ballroom formation and Latin formation categories.
- The BYU Ballroom Dance Company toured for three weeks in May, 2011 in Thailand and Vietnam, giving nine performances to more than 14,700 people, was filmed for TV broadcast three times, and performed for a Royal Princess of Thailand. This was the first time the group has performed in Vietnam.
- In June 2008 the Ballroom Dance Company performed extensively in Hong Kong and China. The highlight of the 2008 tour was participation in the opening of the Beijing Cultural Olympic Festival, preceding the Summer Olympic Games in Beijing in August.
- The BYU Ballroom Dance Company is the current United States National Formation Dance Champion, a title the team has won 30 consecutive times, dating back to 1982.
- 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 students from across the United States and more than 120 foreign countries.

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