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# News Release

**BALLROOM DANCE COMPANY**

April 2015

Brigham Young University

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**Artistic Directors**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Brigham Young University's Ballroom Dance Company wins competitions and amazes audiences every year with Lee and Linda Wakefield at the helm. Under their direction, the Ballroom Dance Company has completed successful tours to China in 2014; England, Germany, and Switzerland in June 2013; Nauvoo, IL in July 2012; California in October 2011; and Thailand and Vietnam during the summer of 2011. The team has repeatedly been crowned the US and British National Champions in ballroom and Latin formation dance categories, and is known worldwide for its showcase *Capture the Magic*, a performance renowned for precision, exciting variety, and outstanding dance exhibition. Soon the BYU Ballroom Dance Company will bring its world champion showcase *Capture the Magic* to \_(place)\_ on \_(date)\_ at \_(time)\_.

Lee and Linda Wakefield are the world-renowned directors of this peerless dancing company. The Wakefields led the dance company to becoming national and international champions yet again in 2011, when they competed and won the US National Formation Championship in Irvine, California for the 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in September. Traveling to Blackpool, England, the company won both the modern formation and the Latin formation competitions at the Blackpool Dance Festival in June, 2013. This was the 12<sup>th</sup> win for the modern formation team and the 13<sup>th</sup> win for the Latin formation team in that prestigious competition. The Ballroom Dance Company has also had the unique privilege to perform in the Cultural Olympiad of the 2008 Olympic Games in China; an opportunity allowed to very few. Overall, the Ballroom Dance Company has traveled to over 30 countries and has returned several times to many, to showcase their talent, help communities, and build unity throughout the world.

As two-time United States Professional Theatrical Dance Champions and ballroom dancers recognized

(more)

**Performing Arts  
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for their exhibition style of ballroom dance, the Wakefields represented the United States as judges in the 1992, 1994, and 1999 World Amateur Formation Ballroom Championship, the 1992 All-Japan Championships, and numerous other international championship ballroom competitions. They also represented the United States in the British Professional Invitational Exhibition Championships in Blackpool, England, in 1981, 1983, and 1986. Lee and Linda both hold membership degrees in Ballroom and Latin American dancing with the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance.

Lee and Linda Wakefield met as students in the ballroom dance program at BYU, and the husband-and-wife pair has been performing together ever since. Lee received a bachelor's degree in recreation administration and a master's degree in professional dance from BYU. He has coached the U.S. Professional Ballroom Dance Team since 1996. Lee recently completed two terms as director of the BYU Department of Dance, while Linda coordinates the International Style Ballroom Dance Program at BYU.

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 110 foreign countries.

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