
News Release

BALLROOM DANCE COMPANY

2015 – 2016 Season

Brigham Young University

General

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

This season offers a new director, a new show, and a new chance for Brigham Young University's Ballroom Dance Company to defend its titles as international champions. Under the direction of recently appointed director Curt Holman, the team will return to the prestigious Blackpool Dance Festival in England to defend their 2013 titles as British National Champions in both Modern formation and Latin formation. 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 *Swing 'n' Sway* to _____ (place) _____ on _____ (date) _____ at _____ (time) _____.

Swing 'n' Sway is an impressive show that presents ballroom dance in theatrical environment with a contemporary point of view. Its innovative design is compelling, engaging and just plain fun! A special black-light number and the team's competition medleys give additional appeal to the showcase. Audiences will be engaged as couple dances a romantic waltz and feel the energy as the entire company moves to the infectious rhythms of Latin America. The fast-paced rhythms are accompanied with amazing, colorful costumes and dramatic choreography.

The Ballroom Dance Company recently returned from two weeks in Nauvoo, Illinois where they entertained audiences nightly and offered outreach programs to the surrounding communities. Last October the company traveled and performed throughout Arizona. In 2014, the dance company took their show to various cities around China including Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Hong Kong among others. During the team's last appearance at Blackpool, they received a standing ovation at the conclusion of their competition performance, which recently retired director Linda Wakefield says "has never happened for a formation team before. It was a

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magical moment, truly magical.” In preparation for this competitive ballroom event, the BYU teams practice tirelessly to perfect their new Latin and Ballroom formation routines. After their last victory in Blackpool, the Ballroom Dance Company toured and entertained audiences in England, Germany, and Switzerland. This year, the team will tour in England and Scotland after the competition. In addition to their international success, the Ballroom Dance Company is the current USA Champion in both Ballroom formation and Latin formation dance.

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.”

In 2011 the Ballroom Dance Company 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. The company performed in the Cultural Olympiad of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. In all, the BYU Ballroom Dance Company has traveled to 36 countries of the world, often returning several times to showcase their talent and help communities.

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 100 foreign countries.

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