



# News Release

2015-2016 Season

## BALLROOM DANCE COMPANY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Ballroom Dance Company's New Show, *Swing 'n' Sway*

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.

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## **Tours**

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 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 Ballroom Dance Company was 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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## The Director

Brigham Young University welcomes **Curt Holman** and his directorship in Ballroom Dance Company. This year, he will be premiering his first BYU production, *Swing 'n' Sway*. The team has **repeatedly been crowned the US and British National Champions** in ballroom and Latin formation dance categories, and is known worldwide.

Holman received his Master's degree in dance from Brigham Young University. He and his wife, Sharon, were professional ballroom dancers competitors for six years. During this time, they were consistently ranked in the top four couples in the United States in the cabaret category. They were twice honored with an invitation to dance as soloists at the prestigious British Championships in Blackpool, England and **were finalists in the World Cabaret Championships held in Holland**. They received their **professional certifications** from the **Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance**.



Holman is a nationally recognized **choreographer** in the ballroom dance discipline. His expertise is sought out by top level professional and amateur ballroom dance couples. Recent honors and awards include **first place at the Professional and Amateur U.S. Championships, first place at the World Professional Championships** and **three invitations to dance at the British Championships**.

As the artistic director of the internationally recognized BYU Ballroom Dance Company, Holman choreographs, produces and directs a full length theatrical concert. This company tours each summer and has **presented in over 35 countries**. In addition to this **elite performance company**, the BYU Ballroom Dance program offers technical, choreographic and pedagogical instruction in both International and **American Style ballroom dance**. BYU is also home to the United States National Amateur Ballroom Dance Championships, which attracts thousands of amateur ballroom dancers annually.

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## PERFORMANCES

### *Swing 'n' Sway*

**5 February at 7:30pm**

Dixie State University, Cox Theater  
St. George, UT

**6 February at 7:30pm**

Dixie State University, Cox Theater  
St. George, UT

**13 February at 2:00pm**

LDS Conference Center Theater  
Salt Lake City, UT

**13 February at 7:30pm**

LDS Conference Center Theater  
Salt Lake City, UT

**27 May- 20 June**

England and Scotland

## CONTACTS

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*Tickets and more information available at: <http://pam.byu.edu>*