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# News Release

CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE

2015 – 2016 Season

Brigham Young University

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## General

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brigham Young University's Contemporary Dance Theatre is unveiling their new show *Viva!* in the 2015-2016 performance season. It explores human emotions and moments through moving, visual art accompanied by uplifting and meaningful music. *Viva!*, which serves to seek and discover the depth of the importance of coming to know ourselves and those around us, will be performed at  (place)  on  (date)  at  (time) .

Through expression and representation, the dancers perform numbers that are great in technique and direction. Lighting, setting, props, and costumes play a significant part in the compositions, where it all ties together to bring a frame of symbolism to the audience. Contemporary Dance Theatre draws on a new perspective that can be reached through people from all walks of life. Coming straight from Broadway, this is Nathan Balser's second show as artistic director of Contemporary Dance Theatre. With his professional background, he has helped the group grasp a new and creative approach to the contemporary dance genre. Being inspired by other prestigious choreographers, such as the nationally-recognized Peter Chu and Ihsan Rustem, Contemporary Dance Theatre creates a show that is remembered and discussed long after finale music fades.

The group implements audience favorites within their new show. This includes *Fling Flang FLung*, which captures the nostalgia of days gone by, and *Rapture*, Nathan Balser's own choreography that portrays the happy encounters and love of those closest to us. *Viva!* also incorporates new choreography, such as *Forming In*, that plays with physical awareness and a range of movement influenced by tempo, and *I Lived*, an anthem to life that encourages the audience to be brave and face their fears.

(more)

*Performing Arts*  
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Company members are not only known for their sparkling and dramatic performances, but also for their teaching abilities within schools and community centers. Whether they are on stage or in a school surrounded by inquisitive children, these young artists strive to celebrate the best in humankind through dance. BYU has one of the largest dance departments in the U.S., and consequently takes pride in sharing its love of the performing arts through traveling groups such as Contemporary Dance Theatre.

Since its founding in 1974, the company has performed in the Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, Germany, Argentina, Chile, Japan, the Philippines, Korea, Turkey, Israel, South Africa, and Australia. Contemporary Dance Theatre has toured in the Eastern United States and was selected twice by the American College Dance Festival to perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

In November 2013, Contemporary Dance Theatre was the first non-Asian international university dance group to be invited to perform at the Chun Hua Qiu Shi Festival at the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing, China. In summer of 2015, Contemporary Dance Theatre toured the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, and Germany. In Prague, they participated in the New Prague Dance Festival in which they won the Grand Prix Award given to the best overall group. The company also participated in workshops taught by prestigious university professors and did outreach programs in which they shared, with children and adults alike, the positive feeling that comes with dance. In 2016, the group will visit cities in Utah, California, and Nevada.

Contemporary Dance Theatre 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 30,000 students from across the United States and 100 foreign countries.

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