



News Release

2017-18 Season

Contemporary Dance Theatre

Performing Arts Management
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Contemporary Dance Theatre's Stunning Movements

Brigham Young University's Contemporary Dance Theatre is a group that explores dance in its deepest artistic form. It explores human emotions and moments through moving, visual art accompanied by uplifting and meaningful music.

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

Straight from Broadway, this is Nathan Balser's third 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.

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 2019, the group will take their theatrical dance show to the Northeast, including New York. Past tours have included 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. 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. Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, and Germany.

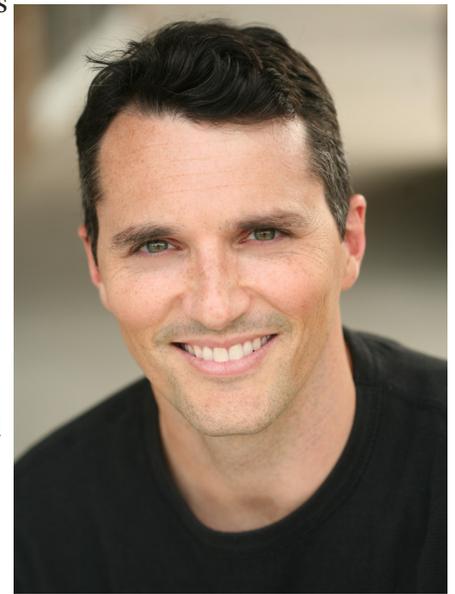
Contemporary Dance Theatre originates in the Department of Dance of the College of Fine Arts and Communications at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. BYU is one of the nation's largest private universities with an enrollment of 30,000 students from across the United States and 100 foreign countries.



Artistic Director

Nathan Balsler works with the students at Brigham Young University as both a teacher and a mentor in the dance department. His experience on national and international stages provides an extensive background upon which he can draw both creative measures and practical technique to educate BYU's dancers.

Balsler graduated from Brigham Young University in 1998 with a degree in Therapeutic Recreation, after which he went on to receive a master's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Utah. In addition to his contemporary dance experience, he has performed in many Broadway productions, and performed in four consecutive Tony Award shows. His casting credits place him alongside famous musical theatre actresses Kristen Chenoweth, Allyson Janney, and Cheyenne Jackson.



He has also performed as a member of internationally-known Repertory Dance Theatre, a company dedicated to representing and preserving dance history, including the world's largest collection of American dance. His work has also put him on stage with world-renowned dancer and choreographer Molissa Fenley, as well as John Malashock and company.

In addition to his demanding schedule as a performer, Balsler continued to develop his own skills as a choreographer. He has developed a significant number of dances which have been performed internationally. He also helped in the organization and development of the Utah Conservatory of the Performing Arts, a studio dedicated to training and encouraging up-coming performing artists. Balsler impresses upon his students the desire and motivation to be dance artists of the future and to continue the high performance standards of the group. He brings that same drive to expand the vision of Contemporary Dance Theatre by providing a blended showcase of art and entertainment that lifts and shares a touching message to audiences worldwide.



Upcoming Performances

February 15, 2018 at 7:30 pm

de Jong Concert Hall, Brigham Young University

Provo, Utah

February 17, 2018 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

de Jong Concert Hall, Brigham Young University

Provo, Utah

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