



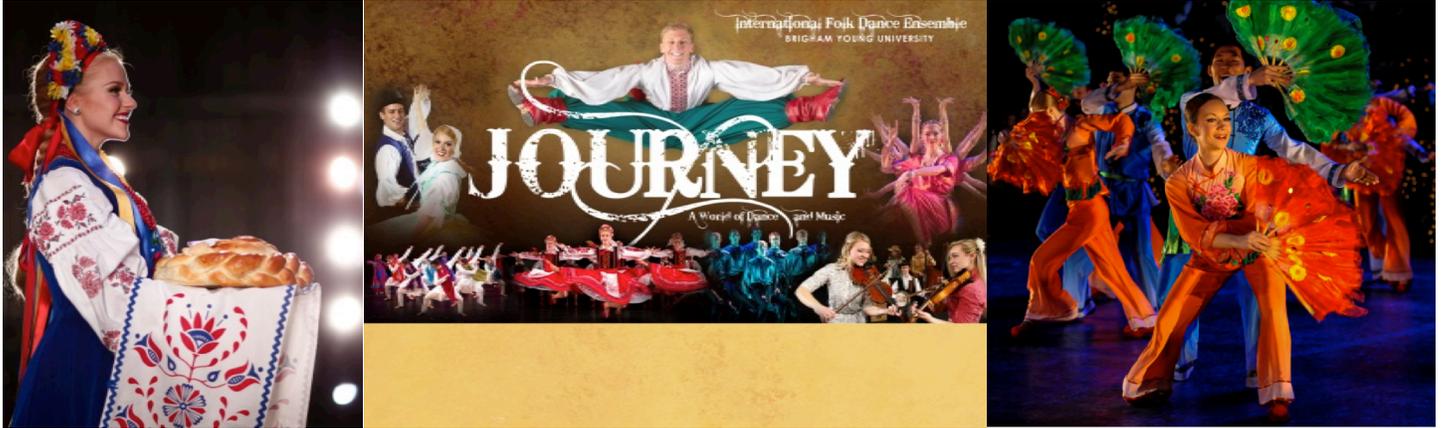
News Release

2016-2017 Season

FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Performing Arts Management

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Journey, a voyage through the heartbeat of the world's cultures.

Any wanderer will tell you that there is **something magical** about discovering **new places** and participating in **timeless traditions**. There's no need to wait, you can **discover the magic now**. Join the International Folk Dance Ensemble for an adventure that will entertain your wanderlust through an evening of dance and music.

Journey is a 90-minute voyage of dance and music through the heartbeat of the world's cultures. In this show, you will see dances ranging from **Irish hard shoe, American clogging, Ukrainian Hopak, exotic Indian dances, and much more**. It is a kaleidoscope of furious footwork, pulsing rhythms, live music, and authentic costumes radiating the magic from across the globe.

So throw off the bowlines and catch the wind in your sails as our companion on this Journey. Join us at (PLACE) on (DATE) at (TIME).



The Group

This year, Folk Dance Ensemble enthusiastically celebrates their **60th anniversary** as a performing arts group for Brigham Young University. Throughout the past 60 years, the ensemble has **travelled throughout the world** performing **traditional dances** selected from a wide variety of cultures. The group continues to dazzle audiences with their **eye-catching costumes, diverse dance selections, and captivating performances**.

In conjunction with their lively routines, the dance ensemble is accompanied by the highly versatile and highly acclaimed **acoustic band Mountain Strings**. These musicians provide live, engaging music that is every bit the dancers' equal in **complexity, skill, and professionalism**. The musicians demonstrate such **extraordinary talent** that their performance could be—and, in some venues, often is—a show unto itself.

The ensemble most recently toured throughout the Nauvoo, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin areas, where they performed a **diverse repertoire** and engaged in various **community outreach programs**. In 2015 the ensemble **toured throughout Europe** where they performed in **three international folk festivals**; The International Folklore Festival in Karlovac, Croatia; 'Ciudad de Burgos' International Folkloric Festival in Burgos, Spain; and Extremadura Festival in Badajoz, Spain.

Courtney Austrian of the US State Department in the Ukraine says of the performance, "The dancers and the musicians were **absolutely magnificent**. Everyone in my office who was lucky enough to attend the performance has been talking today about the **energy, enthusiasm, and sheer talent** that was on stage last night. The overwhelming feeling here is that it's extremely unfortunate that there could only be one performance!"

"A touring production of this size and scope is a **rare treasure among academic institutions**," says Jeanette Geslison, artistic director of the ensemble. "The time, talent, and resources that go into making this possible are immense. The student performers are enriched as they are immersed in **cultural exchange, life-long learning, and service** in addition to their professional academic careers."

Since 1964, International Folk Dance Ensemble has toured all over the world, representing cultures around the world. The group has become **internationally famous** at the **world's most prominent folk dance** festivals where they perform with many of the best dance companies from throughout the world. The group has also **represented both BYU and the US as the American Folk Dance Ensemble** in the world's largest folk festivals. For their upcoming 2017 tour, International Folk Dance Ensemble is excited to enliven the stages of Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

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The Director

Working behind the scenes of the International Folk Dance Ensemble's (IFDE) dazzling showcase of music and dance from around the world is artistic director **Jeanette Geslison**. Geslison hails from Odense, **Denmark** where she was trained in **classical ballet, jazz, and theatre**. She attended Brigham Young University and performed with the IFDE from 1987-1991, and again from 1993-94. Geslison has strong ties with the group; she **coordinated and directed** program ensemble classes and has been a rehearsal specialist with IFDE since 1995.

The show, *Journey*, gives the audience the experience of being a wanderer through the **heartbeat of the world's cultures**. "The essence of what we want to tell the audience is that in the past you really had to 'journey' to visit other cultures," explains Geslison. "Now we kind of live right next door."

The group is comprised of **28 student dancers, 7 student musicians, and 4 technicians**. Geslison is also supported by a production team of seasoned professionals: **Mark Ohran**, technical director; **Mark Geslison**, director of the Mountain Strings folk music ensemble; and **Troy D. Streeter**, Artist Manager. This year's show will also include a number of new choreographies put together by dance specialists from around the world.

Geslison's goal for the IFDE is that they continue to **thrill audiences across the world** with their youthful enthusiasm and talent as they portray cultural folk dance and music. "We play an important role in shaping and defining the future of traditional dance by giving voice to the past and present," Geslison said. "The students love to be a part of this group and **they give their all to make it the best experience possible.**"

The International Folk Dance Ensemble 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 throughout the United States and 105 foreign countries.



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PERFORMANCES

Journey

28 January at 7:30pm

Western Wyoming Community College Theatre
Rock Springs, Wyoming

11 February at 2:00pm

Conference Center Theatre
Salt Lake City, Utah

11 February at 7:00pm

Conference Center Theatre
Salt Lake City, Utah

24 February at 7:00pm

Bob Boldrick Theatre
Carson City, Nevada

25 February at 7:00pm

The Art Kamangar Center at the Merced
Theatre
Merced, California

28 February at 7:00pm

Saroyan Theater
Fresno, California

01 March at 7:00pm

Mary Stuart Rogers Theater
Modesto, California

03 March at 7:00pm

Oakland Inter-Stake Center
Oakland, California

04 March at 7:00pm

Paradise Performing Arts Center
Paradise, California

30 March at 7:30pm

Covey Center for the Arts
Provo, Utah

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