



Facts

2022-23 Season

Living Legends

Performing Arts Management
801-422-3576 | pam.byu.edu

- Celebrating the native cultural heritage of North and South America and the South Pacific, Living Legends presents a vibrant spectacle of energy, music, costume, and dance. Its full program lasts 90 minutes.
- Organized in 1971, the troupe specializes in performing for its own native people, in an effort to encourage excellence in achievement, inspire a love of the members' native lands, and develop a pride in their heritage.
- The group consists of 38 members, including performers and a skilled technical crew. Cast members come from the United States, Canada, South and Central America, and the Pacific Islands. All members are of Latin American, Native American, or Polynesian heritage and are selected after a rigorous audition process. In addition, members are pursuing college degrees in a variety of subjects.
- Many of the group's authentic native costumes are made in the portrayed region. Members of the group, group leaders, and guest choreographers from around the world create the traditional songs and dances.
- Living Legends traveled to Brazil in their 2019 international tour. While there, they toured in eight cities, and performed many of the dances local to the region.
- In 2016, Living Legends went to the South Pacific for their international tour. They went to New Zealand, Tonga, and Samoa. Many of the students had family members and ancestry from these countries and many were able to visit with them.
- In 2015, Living Legends toured New Mexico, Texas, Montana, Canada, and Alaska. Their Canadian and Alaskan tour made a successful outreach program to grade and high school kids, in which they exchanged knowledge about the Native American culture.
- Living Legends traveled to Northern California and Nevada in 2014, and also spent two weeks during the summer in Nauvoo, Illinois. The performers shared their dances with old and young alike at care centers, parks, and outdoor gazebos, in addition to 11 staged performances.
- During the spring of 2013, Living Legends toured Central America, visiting Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The group performed for over 13,000 people and participated in four community outreaches.
- From January to February of 2012, Living Legends traveled to Southern California. They delighted audiences in Irvine, Riverside, Claremont, Oxnard, and Escondido. The busy team performed five times in seven days, as well as an outreach program at Sherman Indian High School.
- In May of 2011, Living Legends enjoyed performing for the people of Russia. The group represented BYU with performances at the Stroitel Palace of Culture and Chelyabinsk Ballet House in Russia. Through a broadcast of their performance in Yekaterinburg, the group was able to reach an audience of approximately 2

million viewers. They also performed in seven cities throughout the country.

- Living Legends participated in the Opening Ceremonies of the Olympics in Salt Lake City in February 2002. It also performed for Olympic visitors in Light of the World, a production that showcased several BYU groups.
- Janielle Christensen is the artistic director for Living Legends. She has extensive directing, performing, and production experience and has been with the performing group for many years.

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