



## News Release

2022-23 Season

## Living Legends

Performing Arts Management  
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## Living Legends Celebrates Heritage and Culture

In a performance of culturally inspired dance, music, and costumes, Brigham Young University's Living Legends celebrates the Latin American, Native American, and Polynesian cultures in their show, *Storytellers*. There is nothing new in the legend that we are about to tell. It has been told in every age, in every land, in every tongue. It is the story of today and tomorrow—of how we connect with the Earth, each other, and those who have gone before. This is the story of the Living Legends.

Spectacular choreography, colorful costumes, and heart-pounding music bring to life the skill, beauty, and authenticity of these traditional cultures. All Living Legends members are of Native American, Latin American, or Polynesian heritage. *Storytellers* reflects the cycle of civilizations and weaves together the legends of the past with the reality of today. From the exciting Polynesian *haka* and *poi* and the graceful Mexican Fiesta dances to the expertise behind the Native American Hoop Dance, this is an experience you won't want to miss at (PLACE) on (DATE) at (TIME).



## Living Legends

Living Legends tours around the globe to places such as Australia, Canada, Europe, the Pacific Islands, and South America. In 2021, the group toured the eastern United States where they performed in Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, and California. In 2022, the group will tour Mexico, where they will perform in Guadalajara, Querétaro, Mexico City, Puebla, Oaxaca, Mérida, Cancún, and Tulum.

During the summer of 2013, Living Legends traveled to Central America and performed for enthusiastic crowds in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. One of the highlights was a performance in Nicaragua, where the president of the National Assembly, Santos René Núñez Téllez, and his council were present in the audience. Mr. Téllez expressed he was profoundly moved and impressed with the show. He remarked that, "a culture does not die when it dies, it dies when it is forgotten. Your show rescues culture and heritage."

In addition to performances while on tour, Living legends participates in community services and school assemblies, where they encourage students to pursue higher education.

One of the main goals of Living Legends is to encourage all people to take pride in their individual heritage and continuously better themselves. This focus is demonstrated in performances worldwide. The Office of Culture in Guatemala said, "Your performance was wonderful. Your presence here teaches our people something—to have high ideals and to talk proudly as a people. We hope this community will not be the same after tonight."



## Artistic Director

In August 2019, Living Legends received a new artistic director, Jamie Kalama Wood. She comes to BYU from New York City, with an extensive background in performing and teaching. She has performed in Europe, Hawaii, New York, and all around North America. Additionally, she has taught in India, New York, and across the United States. She has been an actor, choreographer, soloist, and director for a variety of plays, musicals, and movies. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from BYU in music dance theatre in 2002, and her Master of Fine Arts in musical theatre from San Diego State University in 2006. In New York, she worked for well-known companies, including Disney Theatricals, the Metropolitan Opera Guild, and Roundabout Theatre Company.



Jamie has a unique heritage and love for world cultures and languages. She fondly refers to her mixed ancestral heritage when speaking about her love for Living Legends. She has studied dance, music, and religion of various cultures from across the globe. She has taught multiple professional workshops and created original licensing materials and curriculum based on these world cultures and their arts.

Jamie's family has been part of Living Legends from the group's beginning. When talking about the program, Jamie said, "The Living Legends program is inspired by God. He cares for these students, our people and the gospel message that this group can share in a way that is unique to them." Jamie is thrilled to be at BYU and is excited to continue the legacy of Living Legends.

Living Legends originates in the department of Dance, 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 100 foreign countries.



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