



News Release

2015-2016 Season

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVING LEGENDS

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Living Legends members express their culture and heritage through dance show *Seasons*

Extravagant dances, authentic music and traditional costumes help relay Latin American, Native American and Polynesian culture in Living Legends' show, *Seasons*. From the graceful Hawaiian Hula and Mexican Fiesta dances to the excitement and beauty of a Native American Pow Wow, members of the Brigham Young University performing group use dance to portray diverse civilizations through changing seasons. *Seasons* weaves together legends of the past with the reality of today as Living Legends members, all of Native American, Latin American or Polynesian heritage, use music and dance to pay tribute to their ancestors.

This summer's 3-week tour to the South Pacific offers some Living Legends members the chance to meet family for the first time. While on tour to New Zealand, Tonga, and Samoa, Living Legends will give many public performances and even give a special performance for the Tongan Royal Family. Since its formation in 1971, Living Legends has toured to the Pacific Islands, Australia, Canada, Europe, and South America.

Living Legends originates in the Department of Dance in 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 the United States and over 100 foreign countries.

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The Director

As Living Legends Artistic Director and producer for BYU's Young Ambassadors, Janelle Christensen has traveled around the world bringing family entertainment to millions through live and televised productions.

Under Christensen's direction, Living Legends has toured and performed throughout Europe, China, the Pacific Islands, Australia, Canada, Central and South America, South Africa, and the United States. In 2011 Christensen led



Living Legends to its performing debut in Russia; this trip marked the first visit from a BYU performing group to Russia in over 10 years. Christensen hopes that through their travels, members of Living Legends will inspire people of all cultures to take pride in their own unique heritage. "It is a moving experience to work with these performers because I see the sincere respect they each hold for one another's ancestry as well as their own," Christensen said.

Christensen's past responsibilities at BYU have also include acting as a producer for the School of Music and directing the annual "Homecoming Spectacular," a production that celebrates BYU's rich history and school spirit. She has been awarded the College of Fine Arts and Communications' highest administrative award for excellence.

Christensen became active in professional theater and music early in life, co-hosting a daily television show at age 12 and playing with the Musicians' Union at age 14. She proceeded to gain extensive experience producing and directing summer theatres, performing groups, and trade shows, as well as directing a television series and a large outdoor pageant featuring members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. As part of the Winter Olympics in 2002, Christensen served as associate director and media spokesperson for the theatrical presentation *Light of the World*, delivered in the 21,000-seat LDS Conference Center with 10 performances.

CONTACTS

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