



Repertoire

2021-22 Season

Living Legends

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

STORYTELLERS

STORY OF BEGINNING

North America: Eagle

The eagle, which flies highest and nearest to our Creator, is sacred to natives of North America. Embodying strength, courage, and wisdom, the eagle shows us that we have the ability to develop the same qualities. This specific Eagle dance honors the story of creation and beginning.

Go, My Son(Lullaby)

As young parents prepare their child to grow in this world, they sing of the hopes and expectations of generations past and present. Ancestors prepare to share their stories with the child as he develops throughout life.

STORY OF CELEBRATION

SamoaSuite: Lota Nu'u, Sasa, Siva, and Slap

Our Samoan suite tells the story of celebration and a love for life as dancers sing the beautiful Lota Nu'u, keep time with the rousing Sasa, highlight the power and grace of the women through the Siva, and joyfully prove the agility of the men in the powerful Slap dance.

Ecuador: Cuenca

“Por Eso Te Quiero Cuenca” is a contagious musical theme that tells the story of a festival that celebrates family, culture, and community. The beautiful song describes the people of Cuenca with one of its phrases: “Por sus longos bien paradaos, por sus cholas buenas mozas—por eso te quiero Cuenca.”

STORY OF DISCOVERY

North America: Women's Fancy

The women's Fancy dance tells the story of the powerful crow and the emergence of the butterfly as they learn to stretch their wings and fly. As they take flight, they begin a new direction in life.

Hawaii: Kahiko

This ancient Kahiko tells the story of Hi'iaka, the sister to the powerful fire goddess Pele. Hi'iaka is sent to discover someone Pele has seen in her dreams. In her travels, Hi'iaka opens her eyes to the beauty of the world.

STORY OF PATHWAY

North America Plains: Grass & Sweetheart Dance

As the men perform the Omaha Grass Dance, the dancers imitate the movement of the tall, flowing sweet grass-- symbolizing the connection between humanity and nature. As the Grass Dance leads into the Sweetheart Dance, the story lays a pathway of safety and finding the happiness that comes as one travels with the others.

Paraguay: El Pájaro Campana

“El Pájaro Campana,” named for the national bird of Paraguay, tells the story of liberty. In the mythology, Tupá (God) turned the bell tower of a Jesuit church into the white bird, whose sound resembles a bell. By following this bird, you will always know which way to go.

STORY OF STRENGTH

Tahiti: Otea Aito

Tahitian dancers share the story of moving carefully along the pathway, knowing that learning the steps of life can sometimes feel treacherous. They find joy and love as they work together.

Peru: Festejo

The Afro-Peruvian music and drums drive this energetic number. Originally danced by African slaves searching for relief from discrimination and exclusion, this particular choreography tells the story of a young girl who finds freedom as she learns to dance the Festejo.

STORY OF HEALING & HONOR

North America: Jingle / Men's Fancy

To the Ojibwe tribe, the Jingle dance is a dance of healing. As the women dancers move, you can hear the prayers sent to the heavens. In this number, Jingle dancers combine with the agile men's Fancy dancers. Together they offer hope, strength, and healing to those who suffer.

Bolivia: Caporales

The story of Caporales is one of celebrating the sacrifice of those who have gone before. In their honor, the caporales use their elaborate costume to represent the strength and pride that has grown from within

New Zealand: Haka and Poi

Carried on the wind of dawn come the voices of war and of supplication to Tūmatauenga, God of War, by both warrior and loved one. This story is of a village making preparations for battle. Through the powerful movement of the Haka and Poi, the challenge is issued: "We will not back down but will gain victory."

STORY OF JOURNEY

Iroquois Suite: Smoke, War, Smoke, and Pigeon

As the dancers hear the call to battle, they rouse the village through the beat of the Stomp dance. The warriors prepare using the competitive War dance, and the energy builds as men and women join in the quick and athletic Smoke dance. As the warriors begin their journey, the women look forward with hope.

Argentina: Malambo

The Malambo dancer is a master of footwork. Combining rhythm, agility, speed, and strength, dancers build upon the energy of the drum. Though traditionally performed as an all-male number, this powerful choreography tells the story that strength and agility are found in us all.

STORY OF REVELATION

Aztec: Kuitlaxocotl Tlauili

The Kuitlaxocotl Tlauili dance is a representation of the people of Aztlan, named the Aztecs. Their ritual sounds were considered the voice of the gods. Through their beautiful music and corporal movements, we experience the story of "the fruit of light," reminding us to seek the light in times of darkness through Mother Earth and spiritual connection.

STORY OF LIGHT

Navajo: Bow and Arrow, and Basket

By honoring the stories of past warriors, this dance reverences the bow and arrow for providing sustenance and protection. As the dancers face different corners, they keep the balance of the four sacred directions. They are admonished to "dance in beauty."

Tonga: Laka Laka o Siosefa Samita, and Tata'ili

With words and actions, the graceful dancers tell their story of devotion. This story celebrates the miracles and the blessings that have been received from heaven. After receiving these blessings, the people rejoice. Ultimately, all are invited to "come and hear our story."

Mexico: Mariachi and La Negra

The energetic music and dance from the state of Jalisco capture the world of Mexico. The powerful and patriotic movements tell the story of grace and elegance combined with power and love for one's home.

North America: Hoop

The hoop symbolizes eternity to many nations. As a child learns to dance the Hoop dance, they begin with only one hoop until, over time, they master many hoops. As they do, dancers learn to share the creations of Mother Earth and the power of the Great Spirit through their dance.

Finale

As the child becomes the parent, he continues to be taught by the ancestors. He hears the words once spoken by a wise chief—teaching that family, honor, work, and education are the keys to success and happiness.

Justin T. Smith
801-422-3573
justin_smith@byu.edu

Performing Arts Management
306 Hinckley Center
Provo, UT
801-422-3576
perform@byu.edu
pam.byu.edu

Living Legends
originates in the Department of Dance
of the College of Fine Arts and
Communications, at Brigham Young
University in Provo, Utah.