



News Release

2016-2017 Season

LIVING LEGENDS

Performing Arts Management

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Living Legends members express their heritage in *Seasons*

In a performance of **extravagant dancing, culturally-inspired music and intricate costumes**, Brigham Young University's Living Legends celebrates the **Latin American, Native American, and Polynesian** cultures in their show, *Seasons*. Each year, hundreds of BYU students audition for the opportunity to pay tribute to their ancestors through music and dancing. The audition process is competitive—accepting only the best singers and dancers—but all Living Legends members are of Native American, Latin American, or Polynesian heritage.

Spectacular choreography, colorful costumes, and heart-pounding music bring to life the skill, beauty and **authenticity of these traditional cultures**. From the **graceful Hawaiian Hula** and **Mexican Fiesta** dances to the excitement and beauty of a Native American **Pow Wow**, this year's Living Legends performance reflects the cycle of civilizations through the **portrayal of changing seasons** and weaves together legends of the past with the reality of today. Living Legends showcased their performance of *Seasons* in Samoa, New Zealand, and Tonga for the 2016 season. They'll be reaching out with their performance in **Washington, Oregon, and Idaho in 2017**.

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Tours

Most recently, Living Legends returned from their 2016 tour in New Zealand, Tonga, and Samoa where many students have **family and ancestry**. They also performed for the **Royal Family of Tonga**. In 2015, the group travelled to Canada and Alaska. While on tour, they performed in school assemblies that **encouraged students** with a Native American background to **pursue higher education**. The ensemble delighted audiences with eight **performances in Northern California and Nevada** on their 2014 tour. They also performed nightly in Nauvoo, Illinois to **over 3,000 people** in a two week period.

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, Santo Rene Nunez Tellez**, and his council were present in the audience. The next day, Mr. Tellez expressed he was **profoundly moved and impressed** with the previous night's show, and told them that "a culture does not die when it dies, it dies when it is forgotten. **Your show rescues culture and heritage.**"

Living Legends has also been **applauded worldwide in the Pacific Islands**, Australia, Canada, Europe, and South America. During the **2002 Winter Olympic Games** held in Salt Lake City, Utah, Living Legends had the honor of performing for visitors and athletes in the Olympic Village. Members of Living Legends also had the privilege of participating in *Light of the World*, a production featuring several BYU performing groups.

One of the main goals of Living Legends is to **encourage all to take pride in their individual heritage** and to continuously to better themselves, as illustrated by a statement from the **Office of Culture in Guatemala**: "Your performance was wonderful. Your presence here teaches our people something—to have high ideals and to walk proud as a people. We hope this community will not be the same after tonight."

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The Director

Although the performers make it look easy, Brigham Young University's Living Legends' colorful, authentic presentation of Latin American, Polynesian, and Native American music and dance would not be possible without the dedication, talent, and expertise of artistic director **Janielle Christensen**.

Christensen became active in professional theater and music early in her 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 an **artistic director** of **Living Legends** and a **producer** for **Young Ambassadors**, both performing groups at BYU, she has traveled around the world, bringing uplifting 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. "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.

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 105 foreign countries.

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PERFORMANCES

Seasons

27 January at 7:00pm

Blackfoot Performing Arts Center
Blackfoot, Idaho

28 January at 7:00pm

Centennial High School
Boise, Idaho

31 January at 7:00pm

Central Valley High School
Spokane, Washington

01 February at 7:30pm

Port Angeles High School
Port Angeles, Washington

02 February at 7:00pm

Auburn Performing Arts Center
Auburn, Washington

03 February at 7:00pm

TBD
Portland, Oregon

04 February at 7:00pm

Richland High School
Kennewick, Washington

17 February at 7:00pm

Conference Center Theatre
Salt Lake City, Utah

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