
Tour Release

LIVING LEGENDS

April 2015

Brigham Young University

Alaska and British Columbia Tour

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When the Living Legends team last left Alaska, a member of the Alaskan Federation of Natives board said, “our youth find role models when they see the performers take pride in their people and their heritage. And our youth aren’t the only ones affected—even adults really make a connection and see that they are part of a larger native world.”

Living Legends is renowned for its exhilarating performance of dances, music, and traditions representing the Native American, Latin American, and Polynesian cultures. This Brigham Young University ensemble pays tribute to their ancestors and inspire all in attendance to recognize the value of preserving and honoring culture through their performance of *Seasons*.

On April 28th, 2015, Living Legends will begin its tour in Kalispell, Montana. From there, the group will perform nearly every night across British Columbia; in Cranbrook, Penticton, Vernon, Merritt, Kamloops, Prince George, and Prince Rupert. The team will continue to Alaska, ferrying and driving to shows in Ketchikan on May 12, Juneau on May 14, Fairbanks on May 16, and the final performance in Anchorage on May 19. The team will also put on three shows for local schools, introducing the students to a rich heritage common to many of them.

Seasons draws from the legend of an ancient ancestor who was carried on “wings of fire” to a land far across the waters of his homeland. From this central story line come the “seasons” of the title – the Seasons of Promise, Plenty, Prosperity, War, and Rebirth. All cultures that are part of Living Legends join

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together to showcase the struggles and joys of human nature experienced by all peoples, no matter the region they call home.

The ensemble is excited to bring dances native to the region of Alaska and British Columbia. The native Alaskan dance Yupik expresses through the hands of the dancers fishing exploits and the building of friendships. A Native American number called “Go My Son,” emphasizes the importance of family, education and service. These dances have a special meaning when performed as a gift to their native people.

During the summer of 2013, Living Legends traveled to Central America and performed for enthusiastic crowds in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Artistic Director Janielle Christensen said that “with a blend of formal performances in world-class venues, to visits to ancient ruins and indigenous villages, the students were aware daily of the precious people and rich culture of these historic countries.”

One of the main goals of Living Legends is to encourage all to take pride in their individual heritage and to continuously 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.”

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 the United States and 105 foreign countries.

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