
News Release

THEATRE BALLET

2015-2016 Season

Brigham Young University

General

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ballet makes audiences princesses and princes at Pre-show Party

Come meet ballet's best-loved princesses and princes in an enchanted evening of classical favorites.

Brigham Young University's Theatre Ballet brings childhood dreams to life in their unique show, *Fairy Tales and Fantasy*, at (place) on (date) at (time) . Theatre Ballet also cordially invites all to attend their pre-show Prince and Princess Party where the young and young-at-heart can dress as princes and princesses, meet the ballet company, and take pictures right before this family-friendly performance.

Fairy Tales and Fantasy is a night of highlights from the stage's most popular and successful ballets. The dancers will delight audiences with favorite scenes from *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Snow White*, *Paquita* and *Alice in Wonderland*. BYU's critically acclaimed ballet company brings these stories to life, stepping onto the stage as if right out of the storybook. *Fairy Tales and Fantasy* is filled with both classic and original choreography from one of the largest, most successful dance programs in the country. As the curtains finally close on a perfect storybook ending, audiences will wish the performance could go on happily ever after.

"The quality goes up every year; they are strong, artistic dancers," says Associate Professor of Dance Sandra Allen, describing the appeal of the company. "Many of the girls come from a professional background. We have men who are doing some extremely fine work. It certainly does give us a strong program."

In addition to local performances, Theatre Ballet hosts outreach programs and special workshops at area high schools and other organizations. The company focuses on encouraging youth and members of the community to develop a love of art and an appreciation for ballet. Performer Hilary Wolfley says of the outreach programs, "I

(more)

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feel like they help communities realize that they have the opportunity to come into contact with ballet and be inspired by it. It really is possible for these students and youth to fulfill their dream to dance on stage.”

Maintaining their personal technique is just as important to the dancers as instructing young hopefuls. Dancers dedicate 18 hours a week to practicing technique and rehearsing. In March of 2014, French dancer and educator Alexandre Munz arrived to teach a series of master classes and also set a new contemporary work for an entire month residency at BYU. Other professional choreographers such as Ihsan Rustem, Duncan Cooper, and Garrett Smith have set new contemporary ballet pieces in the company within the past year—showing a dynamic classical and contemporary ballet program.

Theatre Ballet began performance tours throughout the US in 1985, receiving praise for impressive concerts, effective workshops, and intriguing lecture demonstrations in every place they have visited. Last year, they spread their talent in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. This year, they will bring these beloved classics to Northern California and Nevada. Previously, Theatre Ballet traveled to the Pacific Northwest in 2015, Southern California and Nevada in 2014, and Arizona in 2011, with many other tours throughout the western United States in previous years. Additionally, BYU Theatre Ballet has received high honors each year they have performed at American College Dance Association (2008, 2009, and 2012) and the company just received full company status with Regional Dance America/Northwest Region, the premiere national organization for regional and pre-professional companies.

Theatre Ballet originates in the Department of Dance of the College of Fine Arts and Communications at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. It is one of the largest university dance programs in America with around 350 students enrolled in ballet classes alone each semester. The ballet program runs with a complete curriculum that supports two performing companies. The faculty includes three full-time ballet faculty members and six adjunct faculty members. 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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