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Ballet troupe turns audience into royalty at pre-show party

BYU Theatre Ballet is delighted to present their new show, “Carnival of the Animals.” This family-friendly spectacle is inspired by the whimsical musical suite by Camille Saint-Saëns. The ballet dancers explore and portray the magic behind carnivals and the beauty of animals while wearing amazing costumes and puppets by experts Priscilla Hao and Nat Reed. Theatre Ballet takes the audience into a new world with beautiful choreography and amazing storytelling. With permission from the Gerald Arpino and Robert Joffrey Foundation, the company performs “Viva Vivaldi”; they also perform “Salve Regina” by James Sutton.

In addition to the performance, Theatre Ballet invites all to attend the pre-show Prince and Princess Party, in which both the young and the young at heart can dress as princes and princesses, color animal masks, take photos in a booth, and even dance with members of the cast.
Theatre Ballet

Brigham Young University’s ballet program is one of the largest university dance programs in America with approximately 350 students enrolled in ballet classes each semester alone. The faculty includes three full-time ballet faculty members and six adjunct faculty members. The ballet program not only provides students with a complete course of study but also supports two performing companies—those being Theatre Ballet and Ballet Showcase.

Performing both traditional full-length ballets as well as modern contemporary works, the Theatre Ballet performers’ talents extend to multiple artistic spheres. In addition to their performances, Theatre Ballet creates an opportunity to meet with the cast. The performers love to interact with audience members and provide time during different events to connect with you. With a new director and repertoire as well as dedicated performers, Theatre Ballet presents a show that you will not forget.

The company often takes their shows on tour. Theatre Ballet has performed in many U.S. states, including California, Washington, Nevada, New Mexico, and Oregon. They have toured internationally to South Africa and Canada. In 2018, Theatre Ballet will take their new show, Carnival of the Animals, to New Mexico and Texas.

Brigham Young University’s top ballet company, Theatre Ballet originates in the Department of Dance in the College of Fine Arts and Communications. BYU is one of the nation’s largest private universities, with an enrollment of approximately 32,000 students from all 50 states and more than 100 countries.
Artistic Director

As the director of Theatre Ballet and assistant professor at Brigham Young University, Shayla Bott brings over 20 years of experience teaching in the private and classroom setting, creating and producing original choreography, and performing with various ballet companies.

Shayla graduated from the University of Utah with a BFA in ballet performance and a MFA in music, choreography, and pedagogy. After retiring from Utah Regional Ballet, Shayla continued on to focus on producing choreography as well as teaching in both professional and academic venues.

Bott’s work has won many choreographic awards including Utah Regional Ballet’s Choreography Design Project (2008, 2010 and 2nd place in 2012) and the National Choreographic Recognition Award from Regional Dance America in Montreal in 2012 for her work “Weaker”. Her original works have been showcased by Utah Regional Ballet, BYU Theatre Ballet, BYU Showcase Company, UVU’s Repertory Ballet Ensemble, Ballet West Summer Intensive, Idaho Regional Ballet, Ballet Arkansas, Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre, University of Utah’s Ballet Ensemble and on Shayla Bott & Company for Chop Shop: Bodies in Motion contemporary dance festival in Bellevue, Washington.

As director, Shayla looks forward to incorporating historical ballets into the companies repertoire, supporting the dancer’s development as artists and technicians to prepare them for their future careers, all while presenting the highest quality of work for the company’s various audiences.
Upcoming Performances

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