



# News Release

2015-2016 Season

## THEATRE BALLET

Contact: Performing Arts Management  
(801) 422-3576 | perform@byu.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Ballet troupe turns audience into royalty at pre-show party



Meet well-known princes and princesses in an enchanted evening of classical ballet favorites. Brigham Young University's Theatre Ballet brings childhood dreams to life in their unique show, *Fairy Tales and Fantasy*. In addition to the performance, all are invited to attend the pre-show Prince and Princess Party where both the young and the young-at-heart can dress as princes and princesses, meet the ballet company, and take pictures before the 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.

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.

-More on reverse-

## The Director



Theatre Ballet Artistic Director Shani Robison brings over 20 years of professional experience to the company. Robison is an associate professor of dance at Brigham Young University teaching beginning to advanced ballet technique. She choreographs new contemporary and classical works each year for Theatre Ballet and BYU Ballet Showcase Company. Robison innovatively draws from her expertise to enhance the caliber of Theatre Ballet and opens up classical and contemporary experiences that offer the student performers a strong education in the art form. Three of Robison's works, *African Winds* (2008), *Concealed* (2009), and *Interrupted Impulse* (2012) were given the distinct honor of being selected to be performed in the Gala Concert of the American College Dance Festival Northwest Region. Under Robison's direction, Theatre Ballet has recently achieved full member status in Regional Dance America, the premiere national organization for regional and pre-professional ballet companies.

Robison's focus has been to provide entirely unique experiences for the talented performers of Theatre Ballet. "I am working to expand the company's repertoire as we bring in guests that will expose these dancers to the most exciting ballet opportunities that are rarely offered at the university level," Robison said.

Amanda McKerrow, one of the most famous American Ballet Theatre principal dancers in recent history, said of Robison's program and performers, "These are professionals in the true sense of the word." John Gardner, also a principal dancer for the American Ballet Theatre, praised BYU's Theatre Ballet as a program at "a high level" where "everyone is respectful of each other."

Robison received a BA in dance in 1995 and a Masters of Arts with a Performance/Choreography emphasis in 1999 from BYU. Robison has done pedagogical research focusing on transformational learning in the ballet technique class and other teaching concepts, presenting her research at the CORPS de Ballet International Conference in Canada and at several conferences throughout the country, including the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science.

### CONTACTS

**Performing Arts Management** | Brigham Young University | 306 Hinckley Center, Provo, UT 84602-8500 | 801-422-3576  
**Shane W. Wright** | Artist Manager | 801-422-3579 | Cell: 801-360-8952

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