

# NEVADA *Ballet* THEATRE

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## THE KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS SELECTS NEVADA BALLET THEATRE FOR FALL PERFORMANCE

*Las Vegas based Ballet Company will be part of 'Arts Across America' Festival*

**LAS VEGAS (Wednesday, April 30, 2008)** – Nevada Ballet Theatre is pleased to announce that it has been invited to perform at The Kennedy Center's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House Arts Festival, entitled "American Stories, Songs and Steps" on Saturday, September 13, 2008. The Open House is part of The Kennedy Center's season opener, "Prelude 2008: *Arts Across America*," presenting over 35 performances showcasing artists from all 50 states.

"We are honored to be recognized by The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, one of the Country's most respected performing arts institutions," says Beth Barbre, Executive Director & CEO. "Our performance on this national stage represents an important step in our artistic development."

Nevada Ballet Theatre will share a bill with the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet and the Suzanne Farrell Ballet. This annual 'Open House' aims to support the development of American artists in the performing arts.

"This is a milestone for our company," says Nevada Ballet Theatre Co-Founder and Co-Chairwoman Nancy Houssels. "To witness Nevada Ballet Theatre performing at The Kennedy Center has been a personal dream of mine for many years."

Scheduled to begin on Saturday, August 30, *Arts Across America* marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Cultural Center Act signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and the reopening of the renovated theater named in his honor.

*Arts Across America* will also include programs such as the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Page-to-Stage Festival, (featuring 30 area D.C. theatre companies) and Masters of Tradition, in addition to showcasing acts such as Preservation Hall Jazz Band, The Blind Boys of Alabama and Mos Def.

### **About The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Stephen A. Schwarzman, Chairman, Michael M. Kaiser, President, is America's living memorial to President Kennedy. The Center, with seven theaters and stages, is the nation's busiest performing arts facility with audiences totaling 2 million; Center-related touring productions, television, and radio broadcasts welcome 20 million more. Now in its 38th season, the Center presents the best examples of music, dance, and theater; supports artists in the creation of new work; and serves the nation as a leader in arts education. With its artistic affiliate, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Center's achievements as a commissioner, producer, and nurturer of developing artists have resulted in over 300 theatrical productions, dozens of new ballets, operas, and musical works. The Center has produced and co produced *Annie*, the American premiere of *Les Misérables*, the highly acclaimed *Sondheim Celebration*, the three-play *Tennessee Williams Explored*, as well as the multi-disciplined *A New America: The 1940s and the Arts*, the Festival of China,

and The Country Music Festival. The 2006–2007 season brought the citywide, six-month long festival *Shakespeare in Washington*, and the Center honored more than 30 living jazz legends during *Jazz In Our Time*. The Center's Emmy and Peabody Award-winning *The Kennedy Center Honors* is broadcast annually on the CBS Network; *The Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize* is seen on PBS. Each year more than 11 million people nationwide take part in innovative and effective education programs initiated by the Center. At the end of 2005, the Center opened Family Theater, a new totally accessible theater for young people and families. As part of the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts for Everyone outreach program, the Center and the National Symphony Orchestra stage more than 400 free performances of music, dance, and theater by artists from throughout the world each year on the Center's main stages, and every evening at 6 p.m. on the Millennium Stage.

### **About Nevada Ballet Theatre**

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Nevada Ballet Theatre is the largest professional ballet company and dance Academy in the state. Committed to the highest artistic standards, dancers for the 38 member company have been recruited from around the world and include artists with international performing experience. This classically-based company is at home in an eclectic repertory, moving easily from the classics to the high-energy contemporary ballets. The mission of Nevada Ballet Theatre is to educate and inspire regional, statewide and national audiences and vitally impact community life through professional company productions, dance training and education and outreach. Beginning in 2011, Nevada Ballet Theatre will be a resident company in the new world-class Smith Center for the Performing Arts.

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