

NEVADA *Ballet* THEATRE

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NEVADA BALLET THEATRE'S NANCY HOUSSELS RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL HONOR

Nevada Ballet Theatre Co-Founder and Co-Chair Honored with "Women who Make a Difference Award."

LAS VEGAS, NV (Tuesday, November 10, 2009) - Nevada Ballet Theatre is pleased to announce that Co-Founder and Co-Chair Nancy Houssels is a 2009 recipient of the "Women who Make a Difference Award" by the International Women's Forum (IWF). Houssels was among ten women who received this once-in-a-lifetime honor on Friday, October 9 at the International Hall of Fame Awards Gala in Miami, FL.

This distinguished award is given out annually to members of IWF who act as advocates for the advancement of women around the world. Houssels was honored for her contributions to Nevada and the entire global arts community. In 1972, she co-founded the state's largest professional ballet company, Nevada Ballet Theatre, and to this day, remains a driving force for the 38 year-old organization. Her tireless efforts on behalf of the arts have helped keep Las Vegas' performing arts community alive.

Founded in 1982, the IWF has grown to include over 4,000 members worldwide. Its goal is to bring female leaders together to share knowledge and ideas on international issues, all while preparing future generations for leadership. By fostering meaningful friendships and alliances among women all over the world, IWF provides programming and special events that bring diverse populations of women together – women whose decisions move industries, shape economics and define government policies worldwide.

Houssels' love for the performing arts began with her first dance class at the age of three and in 1957, she received a B.A. in Theater Arts at UCLA. As a member of the famous dance team Szony & Claire, she performed at many international venues such as the London Palladium and Radio City Music Hall and made several appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show and The Hollywood Palace. Szony & Claire's first Vegas appearance came in 1966 at the Casino de Paris at the Dunes Hotel. In 1968, they returned as the closing act in the Folies Bergere at the Tropicana, where Houssels retired to marry J. Kell Houssels, then President of the Tropicana.

After retiring, she became involved with many charities and boards, including the UNLV Foundation, The Meadows School, Nevada Arts Council and Children's Service Guild among others. Houssels has received numerous honors for her work including the Governor's Distinguished Service to Women in Southern Nevada, Nevada Community Foundation's Jameson Philanthropic Achievement Award, Chamber of Commerce Women of Achievement Award and the Chris Schallert Award from WE CAN for the Abused, Abandoned, and Neglected Children.

Her most recent endeavor is founding member of The Smith Center for the Performing Arts, a \$475 million world-class complex where Nevada Ballet Theatre will be a resident company.

ABOUT IWF

The IWF is a global organization of preeminent women of significant and diverse achievement. Members come together across national and international boundaries to share knowledge and ideas, to enrich each other's lives, to provide a network of support and to exert influence. Through the Leadership Foundation, the International Women's Forum helps prepare future generations of women leaders.

ABOUT NEVADA BALLET THEATRE

Under the direction of Artistic Director James Canfield, Nevada Ballet Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and the largest professional ballet company and dance Academy in the state. Committed to the highest artistic standards, dancers for the company hail 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. Nevada Ballet Theatre will be a resident company in the new world-class Smith Center for the Performing Arts upon its completion.

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Attached Photo:

Nancy Houssels at the IWF International Hall of Fame Awards We she is featured with other present awardees (from left to right) Susan Whiting, Vice Chair & Executive Vice President, The Nielsen Company; Ruth Grad Leebron, Dean Emeritus for International Programs, Business School of Oklahoma City University & Civic Leader; Nancy; First Lady Carole Crist; Joan Cronan, Women's Athletic Director, University of Tennessee; Luisa Cerar, Partner and Director Business Development LATAM, GDS Branding; and Cynthia Baldwin, Former Supreme Court Justice, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.