

NEVADA *Ballet* THEATRE

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NEVADA BALLET THEATRE NAMES CYNTHIA GREGORY ARTISTIC ADVISOR, ESTABLISHES THE CYNTHIA GREGORY CENTER FOR COACHING

LAS VEGAS, NV (Tuesday, September 28, 2010) – Nevada Ballet Theatre announced today that Cynthia Gregory, one of the 20th Century's greatest ballerinas, will act as Artistic Advisor to the professional company and its affiliated Academy. In addition, the Cynthia Gregory Center for Coaching will be established at Nevada Ballet Theatre's Las Vegas studios.

"We are honored to welcome Cynthia into the Nevada Ballet Theatre family," said Executive Director and CEO Beth Barbre. "Her perspective on artistic matters will be invaluable as we develop and grow. And she will no doubt draw many of the world's great dancers to our facility as they seek to perfect their skills under her guidance."

Nevada Ballet Theatre is establishing the Cynthia Gregory Center for Coaching to provide Ms. Gregory a place of residence for her active coaching regimen. A resident of Las Vegas since 2009, Ms. Gregory will use her new home at NBT to share her expertise and experience with professional dancers and ballet companies all over the world. Her current students range from established professionals to young dancers on the rise.

"I hope to inspire the young students in the Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre and enhance the already great work the company is doing under the direction of James Canfield," said Gregory. "It will be wonderful to have a beautiful facility that I can call home, where I can continue to coach dancers, stage ballets and teach master classes."

Rudolph Nureyev once referred to Cynthia Gregory as "America's Prima Ballerina Assoluta" and she is considered one of the greatest ballerinas of all time. She appeared on the cover of *Dance Magazine* at the tender age of seven and enjoyed a professional ballet career that lasted more than a quarter of a century. Best known for her time with American Ballet Theatre (ABT) from 1965 until 1991, Gregory danced in more than 80 works by the world's most notable choreographers including Agnes DeMille, Jerome Robbins, George Balanchine, Glen Tetley and Jose Limón among others.

Former dance writer and historian Dick Andros once wrote of Gregory: "Some time ago I took class with Cynthia when she was a student. It was easy for me to see the line, musicality and vulnerability that gave her the special qualities to be a great dancer. I followed her career closely; I watched as she rose through the ranks to principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre. I saw her first New York performances of *Giselle* and *Swan Lake* and knew then that she was America's greatest dancer."

Miss Gregory is the recipient of many awards, including the 1975 Dance Magazine Award, the 1978 Harkness Ballet Foundation Award, and two annual awards from the Dance Educators of America. She was made a Lion of the New York Public Library and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at both Hofstra University and Purchase College. She has also authored two books, [Ballet Is the Best Exercise](#) and [Cynthia Gregory Dances Swan Lake](#).

After retiring from ABT in 1991, she became the Chairman of the Board of Career Transition for Dancers, a not-for-profit organization which provides valuable services free of charge to dancers considering new careers. She continues to stage ballets and coach dancers throughout the United States and internationally.

ABOUT NEVADA BALLET THEATRE

Under the artistic direction of 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, 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 statewide, regional 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 of the new world-class Smith Center for the Performing Arts when it is completed in 2012.

ABOUT THE ACADEMY OF NEVADA BALLET THEATRE

The Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre is the official school of Nevada Ballet Theatre and the premier ballet and dance training center of Southern Nevada. Founded in 1979, the Academy is guided by a commitment to excellence in classical ballet tradition. Offering training in many forms of dance with classes for students 18 months of age through adult, the Academy is housed in a 36,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility, offering the highest standard of artistic education taught by distinguished and world-renowned instructors.

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