TULSA BALLET AT-A-GLANCE

2017-2018 SEASON
TULSA BALLET’S MISSION

To serve as an essential asset of our region through exciting internationally-acclaimed artistic excellence and exemplary education and outreach.

We commit to:

- Preserve the tradition of classical ballet.
- Promote the appreciation of contemporary dance.
- Create works of superior and enduring quality.
- Educate through exceptional dance training, performances, and outreach programs.

BY THE NUMBERS...

- 2,450 season subscribers and more than 21,000 single ticket buyers
- 28 dancers in the main company from 10 countries
- 11 dancers in the second company from 5 countries
- 8 productions each year, including 16 classical or contemporary works
- Recognized as one of the top 10 ballet companies in North America
- Hailed as a “Top 5 American company” by the European press
2017 – 2018 SEASON

- **Creations in Studio K**
  - Original work by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa
  - Original Work by Young Soon Hue
  - Original work by Helen Pickett

- **Don Quixote**, choreographed by Anna-Marie Holmes after Marius Petipa

- **The Nutcracker**, choreographed by Marcello Angelini

- **Strictly Gershwin**, choreographed by Derek Deane

- **Cinderella**, choreographed by Ben Stevenson

- **Signature Series**
  - **The Green Table**, choreographed by Kurt Jooss
  - **Rassamblement**, choreographed by Nacho Duato
  - Original work by Tulsa Ballet Resident Choreographer, Ma Cong

- **Tulsa Ballet II Season**
  - **On Your Radar**
  - **Emerging Choreographer’s Showcase**
Tulsa Ballet’s Center for Dance Education offers the best classical ballet training in the region. Ballet classes for every age and intensity of study are offered, as well as cross-training disciplines like jazz and Pilates and workshops in tap and musical theatre dance.

The Center for Dance Education makes its home in two locations – the SemGroup Center at the Ballet’s main Brookside headquarters and the brand-new Hardesty Center for Dance Education in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. The two facilities serve a total of 462 students.

State-of-the-art facilities include spacious rehearsal studios with springy Marley flooring (ideal for dance), a performance studio at each location with full theatre capabilities, boys’ and girls’ changing rooms, break areas, administrative offices, and warehouse storage space.

Tulsa Ballet II helps young dancers bridge the gap between intensive dance study and a professional dance career. The pre-professional company comprises 11 dancers who present their own mini-season of contemporary works, as well as appearing in the larger main company productions. These young artists gain valuable first-hand experience dancing alongside seasoned professionals and being the canvas for choreographic creativity.
Leaps Ahead and its traveling counterpart, Leaps in Motion, provide free ballet classes to 2nd and 3rd grade children from schools in at-risk areas of Tulsa. The children receive an hour of ballet instruction a week, either at Tulsa Ballet’s studios or at their own school, and are provided with dance shoes and uniforms. Through this weekly ballet class, the children connect with all the many benefits dance has to offer – physical wellness and exercise, coordination, musicality, expression, discipline, and dedication.

In the 2016-2017 Season alone, Tulsa Ballet introduced dance to 704 students with the Leaps Ahead and Leaps in Motion programs. Based on physical skill tests conducted with Leaps Ahead and select Leaps in Motion schools before and after the program, results showed that students jumped an average of 2.3 inches higher; completed an average of 6 more sit-ups per minute, showing a 45% improvement; and balanced an average of 15.8 seconds longer, a 55% improvement, upon completion of the program.

Backstage at the Ballet brings captivating performances to every 5th grader enrolled in Tulsa Public Schools - more than 4,000 children last year alone. Many students expect ballet to be delicate and boring, but become engrossed in the performance and are delighted to discover the athleticism and physical abilities of the dancers, as well as the technological and artistic elements of the lighting, costumes, and sets. Educators consistently review their experience positively, speaking about the change of opinion their class experienced. One teacher remarked, "[My students] loved it!! Many students, especially boys, said they didn't think they'd like it, but that it 'turned out great,' 'wasn't lame at all,' and they 'wished they could do that someday.' It was very worthwhile to attend this field trip!"

In the 2018-2019 season, Backstage at the Ballet will be replaced with Peter and the Wolf, a delightful new children’s ballet choreographed by Ma Cong, Tulsa Ballet’s Resident Choreographer. Although Peter and the Wolf is a brand-new program, it will build on the successes of its predecessor. Productions will be offered to an expanded audience including the 4,000 children served each year by Backstage, as well as a Saturday morning performance series for community members at both the Brookside and Hardesty campuses.
Partners in Art (PIA) partners Tulsa Ballet with local social service agencies to provide free tickets for individuals and families who would not otherwise have the opportunity to see a ballet performance. Each year, three special performances are added to the season just for Partners in Arts participants. This year, PIA will provide 2,000 tickets each to the season’s most popular performances, Don Quixote, Strictly Gershwin, and Cinderella.

The most impactful testament to success is the glowing written and verbal responses received from participants. One participant wrote:

“Thank you so very much! I was enthralled by the performance! Because of your generosity, I was able to see the magnificent shows, Romeo and Juliet, In White, and Legends in Motion! I appreciate your giving me the opportunity to attend Tulsa Ballet!” - Resident at Sojourner’s Inn, a DVIS Program

Hope for the Holidays extends the same opportunity for Tulsa Ballet’s production of The Nutcracker. This year, HFH will provide 2,000 tickets to a special additional The Nutcracker. Excited audience members are swept away by the magical story full of Christmas tradition, cultivated artistry, and design that celebrate Tulsa's rich Art Deco heritage.

Tulsa Ballet staff and dancers enjoy the experience almost as much as the participants. It is an incredible joy to delight the audience and make them feel welcome, ensuring their experience is unforgettable from start to finish.
Beyond the Curtain
Tulsa Ballet presents thought-provoking works with historical and social significance. Staring this year, the Ballet will expand on the opportunity to understand these contemporary pieces. **Beyond the Curtain** is a lecture series that explores the themes of the season’s productions.

- September – Gender & Dance (*Creations in Studio K* features all-female choreographers)
- January – To-be-finalized topic with Derek Deane (choreographer of *Strictly Gershwin*)
- May – Historical and social aspects of war, violence, and slavery (*Signature Series* includes Kuurt Jooss’s *The Green Table* and Nacho Duato’s *Rassamblement*)

Guthrie Green

*Tulsa Ballet on the Green* is a free performance at Guthrie Green in downtown Tulsa. The performance is a part of the Brady Arts District First Friday Art Walk, which draws thousands of people interested in arts of all kinds and offers performances, exhibits, and opportunities to support and participate in local art. Tulsa Ballet’s first participation in the event was attended by more than 2,000 people, generating social media buzz and ticket sales for the following production - people who had never before engaged with Tulsa Ballet were suddenly excited about the fascinating art form.

Block Party

In September this year, Tulsa Ballet will host *Brookside Block Party at the Ballet*, a fun evening of live music, food trucks, craft beer, and local vendors. The event is a more casual opportunity to enjoy socializing with other audience members before a regular ticketed performance.
IN GRATITUDE

Thank you for your support. Without your generous gifts, we would not be able to offer the world-class performances, education, and outreach programs we have brought to Tulsa for 60 years. If you have questions about Tulsa Ballet or this proposal, or would like to schedule a visit and tour to learn more about us, please contact Cindy Webb, Director of Development, at 918-749-6030x207 or cindy.webb@tulsaballet.org.

Tulsa Ballet’s World Premiere of Dorothy and the Prince of Oz