



Contact: Ann Lynn
Tel: 274-1278
Email: alynn@ithaca.edu

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THE ITHACA BALLET OPENS ITS 45th ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCE SEASON
October 14-15 at the State Theatre in Ithaca, NY

ITHACA – Under the direction of Cindy Reid, the Ithaca Ballet opens its 45th anniversary performance season with an eclectic program sure to please dance lovers of all ages. The matinee performances begin with a full-length production of *Peter and the Wolf*. Set to the highly popular score by Sergei Prokofiev, *Peter & the Wolf* tells the tale of a boy who goes hunting for a wolf and encounters various animal friends. This production, featuring original choreography by Lavinia Reid, returns to the Ithaca stage for the first time in nine years. First Year Senior company dancer, Katie Taylor stars as Peter, and guest artist Johann Studier, former dancer with the Houston Ballet, stars as the Wolf.

The Ithaca Ballet will also present its stunning rendition of *Bolero*, choreographed by Ralph DiRienzo and Helena Baron. You won't want to miss this visually ecstatic performance that features a single male dancer surrounded by multiple ballerinas in voluminous flamenco costumes.

Filling out the program is a piece from the classical ballet, *La Bayadere*, a dramatic story of love, betrayal, and murder set in an Indian temple choreographed by Marius Petipa and staged by Cindy Reid. Set to a score by Minkus, this selection from *La Bayadere* stars principal dancer Nadia Drake as Gamazatti and features dancers from the Ithaca Ballet company.

Tickets for the Ithaca Ballet's fall performance can be purchased at the Clinton House, 116 N. Cayuga St., Willard Straight Hall on the Cornell campus, by calling 273-4497, or at the door. Ticket prices are: Adults - \$15, Seniors - \$12, Students - \$10, and Children - \$6. Group discounts are available.

RELATED EVENTS

Ithaca Ballet's Nutcracker

November 26, 2006 at the Smith Opera House in Geneva, NY

December 3, 2006 at the Cincinnatus Central School in Cincinnatus, NY

December 8-10 at the State Theater in Ithaca, NY

Choreographed by Lavinia Reid to the familiar Tchaikovsky score, this production is a treat for the entire family. This holiday classic continues to be one of the most popular and largest attended theatrical events in Tompkins County.

All-Brantley

February 9-10, 2007 at the State Theater in Ithaca, NY

At the one-year anniversary of his death, The Ithaca Ballet presents a loving tribute to General Manager, **Larry Brantley**, his life and his choreography. More than 20 years of award-winning choreography will be shown: some outrageous, some hilarious, some heart-achingly moving.....all Brantley. This is sure to be an unforgettable evening.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

April 28-29, 2007 at the State Theater in Ithaca, NY

Don't miss the Ithaca Ballet premiere of this magical ballet choreographed by Lavinia Reid. The exploits of Bottom, Puck, and the star-crossed lovers will delight and entertain in this ballet based on the William Shakespeare play to the well-known score by Felix Mendelssohn.

Founded in 1961, The Ithaca Ballet, housed at the Ballet Center of Ithaca, is Upstate New York's only repertory company. The ballet is a professional ensemble corps, having a varied repertoire of classical and contemporary works. Nationally known, the company tours the Finger Lakes Region.

www.ithacaballet.org