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THE ITHACA BALLET BRINGS A MAGICAL PREMIER TO THE STATE THEATER

ITHACA – On Saturday, April 28th at 7:30 PM and Sunday, April 29th at 3:00 PM, the State Theater will be filled with magic as the Ithaca Ballet, under the directorship of Cindy Reid, finishes their 2006-2007 season with the local premiere of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. With choreography 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, and set to the well-known score by Felix Mendelssohn.

Lavinia Reid is an Ithaca native who is currently Director of the Chambersburg Ballet Theater School and Company in Pennsylvania. Many pieces of her choreography are in the Ithaca Ballet's repertoire, including the much loved Nutcracker. Ms Reid created *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to be done in black light, which adds a magical and sparkly element to the familiar tale of loves lost and found.

Shakespeare remains a popular theme for ballet; in 2005 the Ithaca Ballet premiered a full-length *Romeo and Juliet* to full houses at the State Theater. It is essential for a company's artistic growth to continue to add new works to the repertoire, as well as pleasing both the audience and the dancers.

The roles of Titania and Oberon are danced by Principal dancer Nadia Drake and Resident Guest Artist Johann Studier, and Bottom is hilariously portrayed by Company Actor/Dancer, Tom McHugh. Hermia and Helena are danced by Company dancers Deena Schmidt and Teresa Lynn with their Lovers being portrayed by returning alumni, Christopher Fairbank and Peter McHugh. Also on the program will be *Valse Fantastique* from *Raymonda*, and Larry Brantley's *Tilyou's Revenge*.

Ticket prices are: Adults - \$15, Seniors - \$12, Students - \$10, and Children - \$6. Group discounts are available. Tickets are available at the Clinton House, Willard Straight Hall, by calling 607-273-4497, or at www.stateofithaca.com. This performance is made possible in part with grant support from the Community Arts Partnership and generous gifts from the Tompkins Trust Company and Spider Graphics.

RELATED EVENTS

Summer Ballet Camp

June 26 to August 4, 2006

For the 26th year, the Ithaca Ballet will offer a summer day camp in ballet. Children from eight to eighteen years are encouraged to attend. Daily activities include dance technique classes in ballet, pointe, modern, jazz, stretch and character as well as workshops in stagecraft, nutrition and daily recreation activities. Dancers can select from one of two three week sessions, or a six week session. All sessions conclude with a performance experience. Camp hours are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Ballet Center of Ithaca, 504-506 North Plain Street in Ithaca.

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