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Contact: Jennifer Sciantarelli
Communications Manager
614.586.8661
jsciantarelli@balletmet.org

BalletMet Ends Year with Balanced Budget

BalletMet ends fiscal year in the black, celebrates other achievements

COLUMBUS, OH—On the eve of celebrating its 30th season, BalletMet Columbus is proud to announce it ended its fiscal year on June 30, 2007, with a balanced budget.

“We are proud of our history of fiscal responsibility, which allows our dancers and staff to provide all of us with programs showcasing BalletMet’s artistic and educational excellence,” said Board Chair Sue Porter. “We would like to thank the Central Ohio community for once again helping BalletMet reach its goals.”

Executive Director Cheri Mitchell said one of BalletMet’s most notable qualities throughout its 30-year history has been the organization’s dedication to balancing artistic excellence and financial stability.

BalletMet opened the season in its new 225-seat performance space with a weeklong celebration and *New Works, New Space, New Steps*, featuring an international collaboration with Polish choreographer Jacek Luminski. Other artistic successes in the season included the return of David Nixon’s *Dracula* and the world premiere of *Whodunit?*, an interactive mystery ballet choreographed by Susan Hadley and set to an original score by Bradley Sowash.

BalletMet and the Jazz Arts Group received the 2007 Greater Columbus Arts Council Artistic Excellence Award for 2006’s *Jazz Moves*, a groundbreaking collaboration in which BalletMet shared the stage with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra. BalletMet was also nominated for the 2006 grand opening of its performance space. Additionally, Company dancer Adrienne Benz received the 2006 Princess Grace Award for Ballet.

Other triumphs were through BalletMet’s educational programs, including BalletMet’s partnership with the Columbus Public Schools, GCAC and other arts organizations that provides professional development support for teachers and professional teaching artists, funded through a grant by the U.S. Department of Education. BalletMet also received recognition from the Central Ohio Chapter of Pi Lambda Theta for its quality arts education. Additionally, BalletMet’s Director of Education Ambre Emory-Maier was appointed to the State Committee for the Arts and Innovative Thinking. The BalletMet Dance Academy also announced plans to launch a satellite location in the Gahanna/New Albany area in September 2007, creating an opportunity to serve even more of the community.

With an annual budget of \$5 million, BalletMet Columbus ranks among the nation’s 15 largest dance companies, and its Dance Academy ranks among the five largest professional dance-training centers. Since its inception in 1978, BalletMet has added 102 company premieres to its repertoire and produced 79 world premieres. It has also developed DanceReach, a series of educational and outreach programs that serve 40,000 people annually, as well as a Community Outreach Scholarship program that provides full tuition for talented minority and underserved youth.

For more information, call 614.229.4860 or visit www.balletmet.org.

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dare to be moved.