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Students to Train in BalletMet Summer Program

Talented dancers from across the country will take part in the challenging workshops

COLUMBUS, OH—Nearly 40 Central Ohio young dancers are part of the more than 100 chosen to participate in the **BalletMet Dance Academy Summer Intensives**, weeks of rigorous training at the BalletMet Dance Centre for dance students with professional aspirations. Of the participants, who qualified for the program through auditions, many have traveled from throughout Ohio as well as from states including Arizona, California and Texas to study at one of the top 15 professional dance companies in the country.

The multi-leveled workshop runs June 25 through July 20, with an additional week for the most advanced training levels. The Intensives include levels for intermediate students ages 12 to 16 and Pre-Professional and Modified Pre-Professional programs for intermediate/advanced and advanced students ages 16 to 19.

Workshop participants take classes at least five days each week. In addition to ballet technique, pointe, and repertoire classes, they will study other disciplines including modern, jazz and character. They will also take part in enrichment courses in dance history, nutrition, music, yoga and acting.

“The Intensives let serious students nurture and develop their skills and experience the life of a professional dancer,” Academy Managing Director Chris Rogers said, adding that at least one participant in the program will be chosen to be a BalletMet Company trainee for the 2007-2008 season.

The faculty includes BalletMet Company members, BalletMet Dance Academy faculty and adjunct instructors from other Columbus organizations. BalletMet Artistic Director Gerard Charles will also interact with workshop participants.

The Intensives commence with participant showings, both open to the public. The intermediate program levels perform July 20 while the Pre-Professional and Modified Pre-Professional students present at the conclusion of their session, July 27.

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 614.224.1672 or visit www.balletmet.org.

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dare to be moved.