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## Take the Stage, Columbus

*Show off your moves in BalletMet Columbus' dance competition*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—BalletMet Columbus and Pepsi challenge dance fans to get out of their seats and onto the dance floor to show off their moves in **Take the Stage Columbus, July 18-Aug. 13**. The top two finalists in the exciting online dance competition will enjoy time in the spotlight as they perform during BalletMet's season opening event, *30x30*.

The contest coincides with BalletMet's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary performance, *30x30*, Aug. 6-26 at the BalletMet Performance Space. The event is an exploration of the creative process and features 30 choreographers with a variety of dance backgrounds, from ballet to hip-hop.

The top two finalists in the competition will receive private instruction with BalletMet's Ballet Master, Hisham Ouardien, and will perform on stage during opening night of *30x30*, Aug. 23. The grand prizewinner will receive a gift pack courtesy of BalletMet and Pepsi, complete with a BalletMet Flex Pack Season Subscription and a fashion shoot with photographer Will Shively.

**How to Enter:** Contestants can enter by downloading a music mix on BalletMet's website, [www.balletmet.org](http://www.balletmet.org), and uploading their best one-minute dance video (any style) set to this music onto the website July 18 through Aug. 13. They can also opt to be videotaped at an open studio call at the BalletMet Dance Centre, 322 Mount Vernon Avenue, between noon and 4pm Aug. 11. The videotapes will be uploaded to the contest website. Participants must be 18 or older, no experience necessary. Submissions can be singles or pairs only. BalletMet reserves the right to edit submissions.

**Voting:** The public can view and vote for videos on BalletMet's website throughout the competition. The semi-finalists will be chosen based on public vote and a panel of judges. The semi-finalists will be announced on the website Aug. 14. The public can vote for their favorite semi-finalist Aug. 14 through 17. The two semi-finalists with the most votes will be announced online Aug. 20 and will perform their dances during intermission of the opening performance of *30x30* Aug. 23. The winner, determined by a combination of online and live audience votes, will be revealed at the end of the show.

**The Prize:** The top two finalists will have the exclusive opportunity to perform on opening night of *30x30*, following a private rehearsal with BalletMet's Ballet Master. The grand prizewinner will receive a gift pack courtesy of BalletMet and Pepsi, complete with a BalletMet Flex Pack Season Subscription and a fashion shoot with Will Shively.

### **SPONSOR SUPPORT**

BalletMet Columbus receives support for its annual performance season from The Columbus Foundation, the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Ohio Arts Council, Classical 89.7 WOSU-FM, NBC 4, Time Warner Cable and Pepsi. *30x30* is partially sponsored by the Greater Columbus Arts Council and presented in association with the Wexner Center for the Arts. *Take the Stage Columbus* media partner is 97.1 and sponsor is Pepsi.

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 *Take the Stage* official rules or information about *30x30*, visit [www.balletmet.org](http://www.balletmet.org).

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