

# Ballet

NEBRASKA

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### FASHION WEEK SPECIAL: THIS COLLECTION IS DESIGNED FOR DANCING

Omaha Fashion Week is in full swing, but there's one designer at work in Omaha this week whose latest collection won't be going anywhere near the runway.

He's Winthrop Corey, guest choreographer of Ballet Nebraska's September 28-29 season opener, *Snow White*. And he's one of the few choreographers anywhere with the skills to create not only a ballet's movements, but to design its sets and the costumes its dancers will wear. The demands of dance make those designs a unique challenge, he said.

"Ballet is a very special art form," he said. "When dancers move, whatever they are wearing has to move with them, in the right way."

Corey, the artistic director of Alabama's Mobile Ballet, said he always starts a new production by writing "the book," a detailed description of the ballet. "Since I do the choreography, pick the music, and design the sets as well, I have to get an overall view of what the production is going to be," he said. "The costumes first of all have to fit the movement. And secondly, if there's a specific time period that I'm going for, then I research that period and see if I can come up with designs that stay within those parameters.

"There's a lot of pre-work and pre-design that goes on before I even think of sitting down and actually sewing. I need to come up with a color palette that will go along with the set that I've thought of. And then of course: What's the look? And what's the movement of this particular section of the ballet? What do I want it to look like?"

The details of individual designs reflect the characters who wear them, he said. Snow White wears pink "because pink to me says you're 16 years old," he said. On the other hand, the evil Queen is "a very austere, controlling type of woman. I wanted a dress that would portray that: long straight lines, and severe shoulders; a severe, squared neckline; I wanted her hair in a certain way, and the crown to look specific."

"I'm a romantic at heart," Corey said, "and that's the message that I hope comes through. I hope the audience likes the costumes, the fashions. It really is high fashion for the ballet. It's where I am right now, it's the culmination of everything I've learned about costume-making -- to make a dancer look good and feel good. And I hope that comes across."

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**Note to editors:** Winthrop Corey will be in Omaha through Saturday staging *Snow White* on Ballet Nebraska's dancers. If you'd like to arrange an interview or attend a rehearsal, please contact Erika Overturff at **(402) 541-6946**, or email [erika.overturff@balletnebraska.org](mailto:erika.overturff@balletnebraska.org). For downloadable print-quality photos, [click here](#).