

Ballet

NEBRASKA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BALLET NEBRASKA'S ENCORE SERIES BRINGS FANS CLOSER TO DANCE

OMAHA -- A new way to experience an art form will debut at 7:30 pm this Saturday, when Ballet Nebraska launches its Encore Series, artistic director Erika Overturff said.

"Dance is an emotional relationship between the performer and the viewer, and the goal of the Encore Series is to bring that relationship even closer," she said.

One key to that goal is the intimacy of the new Encore performance space, at 2819 S. 125th Avenue Suite 268, in Westwood Plaza, Overturff said.

"The Encore brings viewers very close to the action, so they can experience the the full impact of a great performance," she said. "The format is innovative, with one of our artists introducing each piece and giving insights into its details and nuances. And the atmosphere is informal, giving viewers a chance to mingle, share their impressions, sample light refreshments, and meet the performers in a casual setting."

Saturday's series opener, *Duets*, showcases dance works that focus on relationships, Overturff said. The majority of the ballets on the program are dances for couples, with moods ranging from flirtatious to poignant, she said. Others highlight individual relationships within a group, and one -- Mikhail Fokine's 1905 masterpiece *The Dying Swan*, to music by Camille Saint-Saëns -- is a solo.

Why a solo in a program called *Duets*? "It IS a duet, between the soloist and the viewer," Overturff said. "It's just you and the swan and the emotions you bring to the encounter. No two people experience it exactly the same way. It's very short, less than four minutes, but it's incredibly beautiful and moving."

Innovation will be the focus of the second Encore Series event: *New Works*, on March 29. Overturff said the program will feature newly-created ballets choreographed by Ballet Nebraska dancers, including Erin Alarcón, Vivi DiMarco, Alberto Liberatoscioli, Danielle Pite, and Chloe Watson.

"Everyone who has seen them onstage knows our performers are versatile and exciting -- and now they'll get to see those same qualities in their choreography," Overturff said. "For me, watching them develop their works was fascinating, and sometimes surprising! It will be fun for audiences to discover this new facet of their personalities."

Also on the *New Works* program will be sneak previews of Overturff's *Party Animals* and Matthew Carter's *Poseidon*, two works that will premiere on Ballet Nebraska's *Momentum* production in May.

Tickets for the Encore Series are available from web.tututix.com or by calling 855-222-2TIX (2849).

Ballet Nebraska is the region's only resident professional dance company. General operating support for Ballet Nebraska is provided through generous grants from the Peter Kiewit Foundation, the Union Pacific Foundation, and the Sherwood Foundation. More information is available from the company's website at balletnebraska.org.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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THE ENCORE SERIES: QUICK FACTS

WHAT

Ballet Nebraska's Encore Series is a new way to experience dance, with innovative programming presented in an intimate space with an informal atmosphere.

WHO

Ballet Nebraska is the region's only professional dance company. Led by founder and artistic director Erika Overturff, it features 17 professional dancers and performs a mix of classically derived and contemporary works.

WHEN & WHERE

Encore Series performances take place at the Encore, a new mixed-use performance space in Omaha's Westwood Plaza shopping center at 120th Street and West Center Road. The street address is 2819 S. 125th Ave. Suite 268, on the south side of Westwood Plaza.

Curtain time for Encore Series performances is 7:30 pm.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Order from web.tututix.com or by calling 855-222-2TIX (2849.)

PROGRAMS

Saturday, February 8 – *Duets*, a fresh mix of partnered works.

Saturday, March 29 – *New Works*, featuring new choreography from company artists.

SUPPORT

General operating support for Ballet Nebraska is provided through grants from the Peter Kiewit Foundation, the Union Pacific Foundation, and the Sherwood Foundation.

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