



NEWS RELEASE

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Full-Length Finale!

Cinderella concludes historic season for **Ballet Society** and **Youth Ballet**

Performance to feature 5 award-winners from recent Denver Ballet Guild and Esther Geoffrey competitions

The legend on the 2006-2007 promotional materials for the **Ballet Society of Colorado Springs** declares the organization to be “Southern Colorado’s Dance Leader.” And after performance collaborations with the **Colorado Springs Philharmonic**, the **Chamber Orchestra of the Springs**, **Opera Theatre of the Rockies**, the **Colorado Springs Conservatory** and the **Colorado Springs Dance Theatre**, as well as the newly minted tradition of the

Holiday Tea with Tchaikovsky from this past December, there can be no doubt that students and faculty of the ten-year-old organization have become just that. All the hard work of the current season will culminate at the Rampart High School Theatre (8250 Lexington Drive) on Friday, May 18 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, May 19 at 2:30 pm as Ballet Society is joined by their performing company – **Colorado's Classical Youth Ballet** for a full-length presentation of the ballet *Cinderella*. The much-loved story is set to music by Russian composer Alexander Glazunov (1865- 1936) with original choreography.

"We are both elated and exhausted from all that has happened this year," said Patricia Hoffman, co-director and founder of Ballet Society and the Youth Ballet. "But the extraordinary success our advanced dancers had at this year's *Denver Ballet Guild Scholarship Competition* and the *Esther Geoffrey Young Dancers Scholarship Competition* gave us an extra boost of inspiration to assure our *Cinderella* will be a spectacular performance."

At the Denver Competition, held this past March 2-4 and open to all teenaged ballet dancers in Colorado, Ballet Society students received four of the 20 awards given out. Winners from the studio included Angela Wood - 2nd Place Junior Division, ages 14-15 (Briargate resident); Erika Yeager - 4th Place Junior Division (Woodmen Hills resident); Julianna Bicki - 4th Place Senior Division, ages 16-18 (Palmer Lake resident); Kim Dorland - 5th Place Senior Division (Pueblo resident). The Esther Geoffrey Competition (April 20) was sponsored by the **Colorado Springs Dance Theatre** and Ballet Society students received three of the available four awards. Wood and Bicki were again winners and were joined by Sarah Kovach. All will dance prominent roles in the upcoming *Cinderella*.

"We are so proud of how they represented themselves and Ballet Society," said Hoffman. "And when the audience takes their seats for the ballet, they will see that there are many more of our dancers who dance at this high-level of excellence. I'm so gratified with how our dancers have responded to the challenges and opportunities this year has brought."

For the ballet itself, the studio has found a charming variation on the traditional *Cinderella*, usually danced to music composed by Serge Prokofiev. "When I was a principal ballerina for **Nevada Ballet**, our choreographer delighted us all by using the music of Alexander Glazunov," said Ballet Society co-director Holly Marble. "Beginning with that concept, I had a great time forging a new ballet from the composer's chamber and orchestral music. It will be interesting to find out how those who are used to Prokofiev respond to this more melodic, sweeping, and lyric inspiration."

Cinderella will be performed with original costumes and set design. Choreography was primarily created by Marble with contributions by Jennifer Artt Hocking and Hoffman. "It's a great family piece," said Hoffman. "Amidst this wonderful romantic love story with a happy ending there is much comedy and our dancers are taking to it so well. It's going to be highly entertaining."

After all 2006-2007 has been to Ballet Society and the Youth Ballet, there is still one last performance looming. On June 9 and 10 at the Louisa Performing Arts Center, the Youth Ballet will join with the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs and the **Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble** for a performance of Giancarlo Menotti's *The Unicorn, the Gorgon and the Manticore*. This is a special benefit concert co-presented by the **Colorado Springs School** and the **Colorado College Summer Festival of the Arts** featuring a signature if seldom performed work by the influential composer and staunch arts advocated who passed away in February at the age of 95.

Tickets and information regarding the May performances of *Cinderella* and the June performances of *The Unicorn, the Gorgon and the Manticore* are available by calling the Ballet Society office at (719) 272-7078 or by email at info@danceinthesprings.com. Any inquires about the Studio or the Company can also be made in this way.

CALENDAR

Who: The Ballet Society of Colorado Springs and Colorado's Classical Youth Ballet

What: Cinderella- a full-length ballet set to the music of Alexander Glazunov

When and Where- *Two performances:*

Friday, May 18 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 19 at 2:30 pm

Rampart High School Theatre, 8250 Lexington Drive, in Colorado Springs

Tickets: \$12; \$8 – students (12 and under) and senior citizens
Available by calling (719) 272-7078 (Ballet Society studio) or by email at info@danceinthesprings.com. Reservations accepted.



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