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# News Release

**BALLROOM DANCE COMPANY**

June 2006

Brigham Young University

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## General

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Twenty-three years of dominating United States formation dancing has given the Brigham Young University Ballroom Dance Company a reputation for excellence throughout the world. The BYU Ballroom Dance Company will bring its award-winning dance showcase to (place), on (date), at (time).

Audiences of a BYU Ballroom Dance Company performance are treated to a spectacular variety of dances, including gliding waltzes reminiscent of a royal ball, playful swing dances hearkening back to a 1950s sock hop, and dramatic high-energy dances of the Latin style. The dancers keep the audience engaged as they demonstrate their diverse talents, moving the showcase smoothly between elegant formation routines and fast-paced rhythmic pieces.

In the competitive arena, Ballroom Dance Company has an extensive and successful history. In September 2005, the dancers competed in the Embassy Ball, an annual ballroom dance competition in Irvine, California, where the team once again won the title of United States National Formation Champions—a title it has held consecutively since 1982.

In May 2006, the group traveled to Ukraine to give performances throughout the country. They presented their program *Light up the Night* in the cities of Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Sevastopol, Lviv and Kyiv. The Company will again travel in October on a 10-day tour across New Mexico and Texas. In June 2007, they will embark on an extensive tour into six countries of Western Europe.

In 2005 the group traveled to several locations in the South Pacific, performing in Hawaii, New Zealand, French Polynesia, and eight cities across Australia. Many of these presentations helped raise funds for local charities and were enthusiastically received night after night. Scheduled evening performances, workshops, school

(more)

*Performing Arts*  
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assemblies, and firesides made for a busy, fulfilling tour for the Ballroom Dance Company.

The Ballroom Dance Company has traveled and performed throughout Europe, Asia, Australia, the South Pacific, South Africa, Canada, and all regions of the United States. Whether performing in the United States or abroad, the group leaves a distinct impression of professionalism. After the group's performance in St. Petersburg in May of 1997, Dr. Alex Zapesotski said, "As president of the St. Petersburg Humanities University, I have traveled around the world—to London, Tokyo, Paris—and have never seen a production of your high artistic standard and spirit."

Lee and Linda Wakefield, the artistic directors of the Ballroom Dance Company, both hold memberships in the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance and have degrees in Standard and Latin dancing. The husband and wife pair has inspired a 26-year pursuit of excellence in the company.

The Ballroom Dance Company originates in the Department of Dance of the College of Health and Human Performance at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. BYU is one of the nation's largest private universities with an enrollment of 30,000 full-time students from throughout the United States and more than 120 foreign countries.

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