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# Fact Sheet

## BALLROOM DANCE COMPANY

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June 2006

Brigham Young University

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Contact: Performing Arts Management  
(801) 422-3576  
*perform@byu.edu*

- The Ballroom Dance Company toured through Ukraine in May 2006, presenting their program *Light up the Night* to local citizens and giving workshops. Members of the company had many significant experiences as they performed for people in Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Sevastopol, Lviv and Kyiv.
- The BYU Ballroom Dance Company is the current United States National Formation Dance Champion, a title the team has won consistently since 1982.
- The ensemble is known worldwide for its exciting and energetic 90 minute program *Light Up the Night*, which features a wide variety of dances ranging from the Viennese Waltz to the West Coast Swing and includes solo, small group, and full company numbers.
- The world-traveled Ballroom Dance Company will perform extensively in the 2006-07 season. In October 2006 the group will spend ten days performing in New Mexico and Texas. During June 2007, the group will compete in the British Formation Championships in Blackpool, England, and give performances in England, Belgium, France, Spain, Switzerland and Italy.
- In May 2005 the company traveled to the South Pacific, giving performances in Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, and French Polynesia. Many presentations helped to raise funds for local charities.
- In May 2004 the company won first place in both the Latin American Formation Competition and the Modern Formation Competition in the British Dance Championships at the British Open Ballroom Dance Competition in Blackpool, England. Also in May 2004 the company toured Belgium, France, and Spain, giving special VIP performances in Paris and Madrid.
- The dancers combine traditional formation dances and standard ballroom steps with fresh choreography, breathtaking lifts and spins, stunning costumes, and energetic melodies in a show which delights and entertains audiences of all types.
- Lee and Linda Wakefield have directed the BYU Ballroom Dance Company since 1980 and have brought the ensemble to international prominence as the largest collegiate ballroom dance program in the world. Lee Wakefield is the current Chair of the Department of Dance at BYU.
- Formed in 1971, the Ballroom Dance Company has performed in 31 of the United States and in 30 foreign countries throughout Europe, East Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, South Africa, and the South Pacific.
- 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 more than 30,000 students from across the United States and more than 120

*Performing Arts*  
Management

PO Box 28500 • Provo, UT 84602-8500 • 801-422-3576 • Toll-Free: 800-432-3576 • Fax: 801-422-0546  
E-mail: [perform@byu.edu](mailto:perform@byu.edu) • Internet: <http://pam.byu.edu>

foreign countries.

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PO Box 28500 • Provo, UT 84602-8500 • 801-422-3576 • Toll-Free: 800-432-3576 • Fax: 801-422-0546  
E-mail: [perform@byu.edu](mailto:perform@byu.edu) • Internet: <http://pam.byu.edu>