

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact

Hannah Cook

Manager – Marketing and Communications

Direct: (414) 902-2110 | Cell: (262) 599-2507

hcook@milwaukeeballet.org

**MILWAUKEE
BALLET**

MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MILWAUKEE BALLET TO WRAP 2022/23 SEASON WITH *ENCORE*
- *The season finale takes place in the Company's Third Ward Studio June 1-11-*

MILWAUKEE – May 18, 2023 – Milwaukee Ballet will conclude its 2022/23 Season with *Encore*, a mixed repertory of five classical and contemporary works. Performances will take place during the first two weekends in June at the Company's Baumgartner Center for Dance (BCD) in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward.

The program will include an excerpt from the classical masterpiece *La Bayadère*, a pas de deux from *Esmeralda*, and the contemporary works *Graduation Ball*, *Aubade*, and *Can I Say Something...??* Audiences may remember the latter for having won "Audience Favorite" at Milwaukee Ballet's 2015 *Genesis International Choreographic Competition*.

"As we close our *Season of Timeless Tales* with *Encore*, our hope is that audiences will see that ballet is not only timeless, but it's for everyone," says Artistic Director Michael Pink. "Anyone can find something enthralling in this program, whether they're fans of classical works or of contemporary ballet."

The production will feel very intimate for audience members, as the We Energies Foundation Performance Studio at BCD seats only 204 people at a time. Many seats are within just a few feet of the dancers, making performances feel exclusive and extra-special.

"When you're that close to us, you can really see the athleticism of ballet as well as the artistry," explains Company Artist Alana Griffith. "In performances where we're further away, it looks effortless, but you can really see the power behind the movements when we're right in front of you."

After *Encore* wraps on June 11, Milwaukee Ballet will commence its summer programming. Highlights will include camps and classes for new and current students through Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy, a rigorous Summer Intensive training program for dancers from around the country, and free community engagement performances, demonstrations, and workshops throughout Greater Milwaukee during the annual *Ballet Beat* series.

Milwaukee Ballet will welcome audiences back to the mainstage for its 2023/24 Season starting Halloween weekend with performances of the internationally renowned *Dracula*. The rest of the 2023/24 Season includes the world premiere of Pink's *The Nutcracker: Drosselmeyer's Imaginarium*,

the choreographic competition *Genesis*, the family-friendly *Cinderella*, and the contemporary triple-bill *MKE MIX* featuring three female choreographers.

2023/24 Season subscription renewals are currently underway, with new packages available starting May 30. Single tickets will go on sale during the summer.

Performance Information

Encore runs June 1-11 at Baumgartner Center for Dance. Tickets start at \$65 and are available for purchase via the Milwaukee Ballet Box Office at 414-902-2103 or online at milwaukeeballet.org.

The performance schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, June 1, 2023 — 07:30 PM
- Friday, June 2, 2023 — 07:30 PM
- Saturday, June 3, 2023 — 07:30 PM
- Sunday, June 4, 2023 — 01:30 PM
- Thursday, June 8, 2023 — 07:30 PM
- Friday, June 9, 2023 — 07:30 PM
- Saturday, June 10, 2023 — 07:30 PM
- Sunday, June 11, 2023 — 01:30 PM

Milwaukee Ballet's 2022/2023 *Season of Timeless Tales* is presented by Donald & Donna Baumgartner with support from the United Performing Arts Fund, Wisconsin Arts Board, CAMPAC, Milwaukee Arts Board, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

###

About Milwaukee Ballet

Milwaukee Ballet was founded in 1970. Led by Artistic Director Michael Pink, Milwaukee Ballet creates a rich and diverse community through its inspiring dance performance, education, and outreach. Milwaukee Ballet hosts an international Company of dancers and maintains its own orchestra. Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy is the only professional dance school in the Midwest accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance, teaching beginner through pre-professional levels in three locations: Third Ward, Fox Point, and Brookfield. Milwaukee Ballet's award-winning Community Engagement department serves thousands of people in Southeastern Wisconsin each year through original, interactive programs. Milwaukee Ballet is a proud cornerstone member of United Performing Arts Fund and holds a four-star rating from Charity Navigator.

Note to Editors: Interviews with Milwaukee Ballet Artistic Director Michael Pink and high-resolution images are available upon request.