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Media Contact

Addie Prochnow
Manager-Digital Marketing
(414) 902-2107
aprochnow@milwaukeeballet.org

MILWAUKEE
BALLET
MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MILWAUKEE BALLET BRINGS DANCE INTO THE COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT JULY
- The month of free “Ballet Beat” workshops and activities culminates with two outdoor performances -

Milwaukee, WI – June 30, 2022 – Milwaukee Ballet launches its annual *Ballet Beat* summer program next week, continuing its commitment to bring ballet into communities around Milwaukee with a series of free activities, workshops, and performances. Following a successful return to in-person performances and outreach programs throughout the past season, Milwaukee Ballet looks forward to continuing to reengage with the local community this summer.

“Our art form is truly meant to be enjoyed live, and we are enormously fortunate to have been able to present our season programming entirely in-person this past year. During the summer, *Ballet Beat* allows us to extend our programming in unique ways throughout the community with inspiring performances and engaging programs,” said Artistic Director Michael Pink. “*Ballet Beat* is an exciting way to connect with a new generation of dance lovers in places that represent the vibrancy of Milwaukee in the summertime.”

Milwaukee Ballet First and Second Company dancers will participate in activities open to the public at popular summer events in Milwaukee, including Washington Park Wednesdays and during Bastille Days, and at community locations like the Wisconsin Athletic Club, Adventure Rock, and Fondy Farmers Market.

Ballet Beat also includes private workshops for partners throughout greater Milwaukee, including PEAK Initiative, Jewish Community Center, Alice’s Garden, and the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

The monthlong *Ballet Beat* programming concludes with two free outdoor performances: Wednesday, July 27, at St. Ann’s Indaba Community Bandshell, and the Marcus Performing Arts Center’s Peck Pavilion on Saturday, July 30. Both performances begin at 6:30 PM and will feature a variety of pieces performed by Milwaukee Ballet dancers and guest performers.

“This year, we have developed an extremely collaborative production for our final *Ballet Beat* performances--one that celebrates the diversity of artists in Milwaukee,” explained Director of Community Engagement Samantha Martinson. “The beauty of classical ballet will be interwoven with the work of Milwaukee poets, African musicians, flamenco dancers, and students from Milwaukee Ballet’s *Tour de Force* program, resulting in an incredible tapestry of creativity and expression.”

Milwaukee Ballet’s community engagement programs reach thousands of students and families each year at public schools, libraries, parks, and performing arts venues.

All kids welcome! East Town Association presents Bastille Days, where Milwaukee Ballet will be stopping by to celebrate the classical art of ballet.

July 19, 2022
3:30 – 4:30 PM

Milwaukee Public Library – Bay View Branch
2566 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207

Dance Athleticism Workshop and Sneak-Peek Performance

Milwaukee Ballet will present an interactive workshop where participants will learn that a dancer's job is just as demanding as a professional athlete's. Afterward, the dancers will present a sneak-peek of the July season finale performance.

July 20, 2022
1:00 PM

PEAK Initiative at Tiefenthaler Park
2480 W. Cherry St., Milwaukee, WI 53205

Demo and Sneak-Peek Performance

Milwaukee Ballet presents an educational demonstration about the classical ballet art form and invites everyone to enjoy a sneak-peek outdoor performance in beautiful Tiefenthaler Park.

July 20, 2022
5:15 PM

Washington Park Wednesdays
Washington Park
4599 W. Lloyd St., Milwaukee, WI 53208

Demo and Sneak-Peek Performance

Milwaukee Ballet continues Washington Park's tradition of providing cutting-edge cultural entertainment with an interactive ballet demonstration and a special sneak-peek of our July season finale performance.

July 21, 2022
10:30 – 11:15 AM

Milwaukee Public Library – Bay View Branch
2566 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207

Storytime Workshop

Children will get moving during storytime, bringing ballet books to life and exploring dance movements, facial expressions and emotions – all while learning a bit about the ballet world.

July 25, 2022
7:00 – 7:30 PM

Wisconsin Athletic Club – West Allis
1939 S. 108th St., West Allis, WI 53227

Demo and Sneak-Peek Performance

Milwaukee Ballet stops by the Wisconsin Athletic Club to demonstrate how training in classical ballet can increase strength, flexibility and fitness followed by a special sneak-peek of the July finale performance.

July 28, 2022
6:00 – 7:00 PM

Fondy Farmers Market
2200 W. Fond du Lac Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53206

Ballet Barre Class and Sneak-Peek Performance

Milwaukee Ballet offers a classical ballet barre class at the Fondy Farmers Market, followed by a sneak-peek of the July finale performance.

Finale Performances

Experience the exuberance of Milwaukee Ballet in fresh air! *Ballet Beat* presents virtuosic selections from the classical ballet canon alongside new choreographic work from Amanda Lewis (MBII) and Calvin Hilpert (Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy Faculty), interwoven with works and performances by Milwaukee poets Mikey Cody Apollo and Michaela Lacy, Xalaat Africa Drum and Dance, flamenco dancer Kerensa DeMars, and a world premiere from *Tour de Force* Glissade student Namine Eiche in collaboration with Milwaukee Ballet Artist Itzel Hernandez.

July 27, 2022
6:30 – 7:30 PM

St. Ann's Indaba Community Bandshell
2450 W. North Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53205

July 30, 2022
6:30 – 7:45 PM

Marcus Performing Arts Center, Peck Pavilion
929 N. Water Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Ballet Beat is made possible through support from United Performing Arts Connect and Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

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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 nearly 30,000 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 or Director of Community Engagement Samantha Martinson and high-resolution images are available upon request.