

Utah Regional Ballet Features Choreography Design Project

**Performances feature original choreography from two finalists in three categories:
Emerging, pre-professional and professional**

February 4, 2009—Utah Regional Ballet (URB) is featuring the second annual Choreography Design Project that will culminate with performances on February 12 and 13, in the Regan Theatre at Utah Valley University at 7:30 pm. The performances will feature original choreography from two finalists in three categories: Emerging, pre-professional and professional. Ballet choreographers from California and Utah submitted applications and the finalists were chosen by a panel of independent judges.

The purpose of the project is to give choreographers a chance to explore their skills by creating original choreography, working with a professional ballet company and dancers, and making the choreography come alive in performances. The performances give audiences the unique opportunity to see a wide variety of original choreography that is new and innovative.

The finalists include:

- Emerging category:
 - Aaron Shaw is currently a dance major at BYU and a member of the BYU Dancer's Company.
 - Rachelle Jardine is currently a scholarship recipient at UVU and is pursuing her Bachelors of Fine Arts Degree. She is a principal dancer for Utah Regional Ballet and her piece will also be adjudicated for the Regional Dance America Festival in May.
- Pre-professional category:
 - Fiona Nelson is a Modern Dance Major at Utah Valley University. She is a member of Synergy Dance Company and has been choreographing for school and the community since she was fifteen years old.
 - Joni Tuttle is currently at Utah Valley University pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts ballet emphasis. She is a principal dancer in Utah Regional Ballet.
- Professional category:
 - Wilson Domingues performed with the Gulbenkian Ballet Company, Lisbon, Portugal in Europe for 16 years, as a soloist, and toured internationally having had the opportunity of working with some of the most renowned choreographers such as: Paul Taylor, Amanda Miller, Jiri Kylian, Hans Van Manen, Nacho Duato, William Forsythe, Mats Ek and Christopher Bruce.
 - Robert Kelley received his formal dance training at the School of American Ballet, San Francisco Ballet School and with Alonzo King. Robert's choreography lives in the repertoires of many regional and professional companies across the United States. Robert has choreographed over thirty ballets for the Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre. His "Linear Context" won the RDA Choreographic

Excellence Award in 2006, and his "The Condition Hereafter" won the same award in 2008.

“The opportunity to set choreography for a professional ballet is a wonderful opportunity for an undergraduate,” said Aaron Shaw, one of the finalists in the Emerging Category. “The Choreography Design Project has enhanced my education and my knowledge of ballet significantly and I thank Orem City and UVU for having the vision to fund the project.”

The final judging will be done during the performances in February and the winners will be announced on Saturday, February 13. The winner of the Professional Category will receive \$1,000, the Pre-Professional winner \$500 and the winner of the Emerging Category will receive \$250. The Design Choreography Project is funded by a generous Orem Care Grant and the School of the Arts at Utah Valley University where URB is a company in residence. A pre-performance symposium will begin at 6:30 pm on Thursday, February 12, and will include more detailed information about the project and the value of the experience for choreographers.

Ticket Information

Tickets are available through Campus Connection at UVU, 801-863-8797. Ticket prices are \$12 for the general public and \$10 for students with ID.

Utah Regional Ballet

The Utah Regional Ballet is a professional ballet company that has performed for audiences worldwide, including China, Austria, Germany and the US. The director and choreographer is Jacqueline P. Colledge who was a principal dancer for Ballet West and has trained dancers that have gone on to perform for Ballet West, Utah Regional Ballet and other ballet companies in the US. She has written and choreographed several original ballets including the Legend of Timpanogos, Romeo and Juliet, Nutcracker and Cinderella. For more information go to www.utahregionalballet.org.