

**For Immediate Release**

## **Winning Choreographers Announced and Utah Regional Ballet Artistic Director Honored by UVU**

**Utah Regional Ballet performances featured original choreography from finalists in two categories—professional and emerging**

**February 12, 2011**—Utah Regional Ballet (URB), one of two professional ballet companies in Utah, announced the winners of the fourth annual Choreography Design Project at performances at Utah Valley University (UVU) on Saturday, February 12. The winner in the emerging category was Lily Bridgewater. The first place winner in the professional category was Amy Markgraf-Jacobson and the second place professional winner was Efren Corado.

The same evening Jacqueline Colledge, URB founder and artistic director received the Ragan Theater Showcase Merit Award from Utah Valley University. This award is given to recognize outstanding community service. Jackie has served the community through dance for more than 30 years.

The Design Choreography Project gives young choreographers a chance to explore their skills by creating original choreography, working with a professional ballet company and dancers, and having the experience of making choreography come alive in performances.

The Project is made possible through a CARE Grant given to Utah Regional Ballet by Orem City, and UVU School of the Arts. Orem and UVU have been long-time supporters of the ballet and arts organizations in Utah Valley. The winners receive \$1,000 (professional), \$500 (pre-professional) and \$250 (emerging) respectively to use to further their education.

“It is one thing to visualize choreography in your mind, and quite another to formalize it and have dancers perform your ideas,” said Missy Seawright, winner in pre-professional category. “Having this opportunity is invaluable to furthering my dance education and my experience.”

### **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](http://www.utahregionalballet.org).

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