

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'S *PETER PAN TO HOOK* AUDIENCES THIS SPRING

- *The Beloved Journey to Neverland Returns May 11-14 at Marcus Center-*

MILWAUKEE – April 27, 2023 - Milwaukee Ballet continues its *Season of Timeless Tales* with childhood favorite *Peter Pan*, presented by We Energies Foundation. This family-friendly adventure is imagined for the stage by Artistic Director Michael Pink and features performances by Milwaukee Ballet Company, dancers from Milwaukee Ballet II, and students from Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy. Performances will run May 11-14 at Marcus Performing Arts Center.

“We’re thrilled to bring the magic of Neverland to life once again. Its timeless themes of adventure, the changing nature of love, and, of course, growing up will resonate with audiences of all ages,” says Pink.

Milwaukee Ballet premiered *Peter Pan* in 2010 to sold-out audiences, which they quickly followed by another run in 2012 due to popular demand. This production was restaged in 2014 for nationwide broadcast by PBS, making it the first nationally distributed Milwaukee public television performing arts special since 1992.

Peter Pan was meant to be performed once again during Milwaukee Ballet’s 2019/20 season, which celebrated the organization’s 50th anniversary, but it was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It was worth the wait,” promises Pink. “I’m delighted by the vigor and creativity with which our dancers have brought this story to the stage after a long few years of anticipation.”

Amongst other visual delights, *Peter Pan* features several spectacular flying sequences with dancers suspended in midair, a magical effect provided by the professional aerial production company ZFX. The magic is enhanced by a beautiful score composed by Philip Feeney, which was recorded for the aforementioned broadcast of *Peter Pan*.

This production will celebrate audience-favorite Leading Artist Annia Hidalgo, who has danced with Milwaukee Ballet since 2012. Hidalgo will take her final bow on the Marcus Center stage after the Sunday night performance. Her last production with Milwaukee Ballet will be *Encore*, a selection of classical and contemporary works running from June 1-11 at Baumgartner Center for Dance.

“I feel grateful for every single person who has contributed to the foundation of who I am as a dancer and who has followed my career,” says Hidalgo. “When I think about the younger generations of

dancers, I want them to know that everyone can find joy in dance. Always put yourself out there in search of new ways to grow.”

Pink, who worked closely with Hidalgo throughout her tenure at Milwaukee Ballet, reminisces, “Annia has been a shining light from the moment she joined our Company. I am confident she will continue to radiate the same levels of enthusiasm and energy in everything she does in the future.”

Peter Pan’s all-ages appeal, captivating production value, and farewell to beloved artist Hidalgo will leave the whole family flying high.

Story Summary

Wendy Darling and her younger brothers, John and Michael, love to play make-believe about a world named Neverland, home of Peter Pan and his magical friends. Much to their surprise, they’re visited one night by the *real* Peter Pan, who flies them to Neverland to experience the magic! While there, they meet Peter’s lovable band of Lost Boys, Princess Tiger Lily, and the dastardly Captain Hook and his crew of pirates. After a series of exciting adventures and close calls with danger, the Darling siblings must find a way to return home so they can grow up – but will Peter go with them or remain forever young in Neverland?

Performance Information

Peter Pan runs May 11-14 at Marcus Performing Arts Center. Tickets start at \$44 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, May 11, 2023 — 07:30 PM
- Friday, May 12, 2023 — 07:30 PM
- Saturday, May 13, 2023 — 02:00 PM
- Saturday, May 13, 2023 — 07:30 PM
- Sunday, May 14, 2023 — 12:30 PM
- Sunday, May 14, 2023 — 06:00 PM

Peter Pan is presented by We Energies Foundation. Milwaukee Ballet’s 2022/2023 *Season of Timeless Tales* is presented by Donald & Donna Baumgartner with support from 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.

About We Energies Foundation

Established in 1982, the We Energies Foundation has provided nearly \$200 million in contributions to programs and nonprofit organizations that promote education, community development, arts and culture, and the environment.

The We Energies Foundation is funded by stockholders of WEC Energy Group, not by the customers of its utility subsidiaries

Learn more at we-energies.com.

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