

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MILWAUKEE
BALLET**

MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MILWAUKEE BALLET DANCES INTO THE COMMUNITY WITH “BALLET BEAT”

- Dancers will host free performances, workshops, and activities throughout Milwaukee -

MILWAUKEE – July 11, 2023 – Milwaukee Ballet’s summertime series *Ballet Beat* returns to the Greater Milwaukee area with free performances, activities, and workshops over the next four weeks. This annual program is part of the Company’s community engagement focus and mission to make ballet accessible to all.

“Dance is a universal language that everyone can enjoy, and it’s a great pleasure to bring it from the studio into the city,” says Artistic Director Michael Pink. “We’re honored to be welcomed into the community that has always supported us, especially as we continue to recover from the challenges of the past few years. *Ballet Beat* is one of our favorite ways to connect with new and returning ballet lovers and to share our passion for dance with such a vibrant, arts-loving community.”

Company Artists Alyssa Schilke and Eric Figueredo headline the cast of this year’s program. They are joined by five dancers from the Milwaukee Ballet II Second Company, students from Milwaukee Ballet School and Academy’s Pre-Professional Program, and other special guest artists.

Ballet Beat will kick off at Bastille Day West and Bastille Day Downtown on July 14 and 15. Further demonstrations, workshops, and performances will take place at popular Milwaukee summer events, including Washington Park Wednesdays and Summerfest’s Sunday Family Fun Days. The program will also travel to Door County to perform in Death’s Door Dance Festival.

Additional private workshops will be held with area partners, including Parkside Elementary School and Pewaukee Champions.

Ballet Beat will conclude with two free outdoor performances at St. Ann Indaba Bandshell on July 26 and Summerfest’s Family Fun Day on August 6. Both events will include pieces performed by Milwaukee Ballet dancers and guest artists.

“*Ballet Beat* is a truly special opportunity, both for us and for our community,” says Pink. “It’s a chance for us all to connect and dance together in a relaxed, fun setting. We anticipate it highly every year and are thrilled to bring it back once again.”

Milwaukee Ballet's outreach programs reach thousands of students and families each year in schools, libraries, theaters, and the Company's own studios. Dance classes, free performances, and adaptive ballet are all hallmarks of their award-winning community engagement initiatives.

Schedule

July 14th - **Bastille Day West**

Kid Friendly Ballet Introduction & Demo & Teaser Performance

Address: 5811 W Vliet St, Milwaukee, WI 53208

Event Time: 5:30-6:00 PM

July 15th - **Bastille Day – Downtown**

Kid friendly Ballet Introduction & Demo & Teaser Performance

Address: 825 N Jefferson St, Milwaukee, WI 53202 (Mainstage)

Event time: 11:00-11:45 AM

July 16th - **Sunday Family Fun Day - Summer Fest**

Kid Friendly Ballet Demonstrations

Address: 200 N Harbor Dr, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Event Time: 10:00-4:00 PM

July 19th - **Washington Park Wednesday**

Ballet Demonstration & Tennis Shoe Performance

Address: 4599 W Lloyd St, Milwaukee, WI 53208

Event Time: 6:15-6:45 PM

July 26th - **St. Ann Indaba Bandshell Performance**

Full performance by dancers and guest artists

Address: 2450 W North Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53205

Event Time: 6:00-7:00 PM

July 29th - **Death's Door Dance Festival**

Performance for festival show

Address: Sister Bay Bandshell, Door County, WI

Event Time: 6:00 PM

August 6th - **Sunday Family Fun Day Performance**

Full performance by dancers and guest artists

Address: 200 N Harbor Dr, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Event Time: 1:00-2:00 PM

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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 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 Community Engagement Manager Rachel Howell and high-resolution images are available upon request.