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Media Contact

Tai Pauls

Executive Director

Direct: (414) 902-29

tpauls@milwaukeeballet.org

MILWAUKEE BALLET

MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MILWAUKEE BALLET PRESENTS CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY WORKS IN *ENCORE*

- The production will be staged over two weeks at the Company's Baumgartner Center for Dance. -

Milwaukee, WI – January 7, 2026 – Milwaukee Ballet kicks off the second half of their 2025/26 Season with *Encore*, a mixed repertory featuring excerpts from classical works alongside distinctive contemporary pieces. This two-week production will take place from January 30 through February 8 at the Company's home theater, the 172-seat We Energies Performance Studio at Baumgartner Center for Dance.

"*Encore* is a special opportunity to highlight our dancers' extensive artistry and range," says Artistic Director Michael Pink. "The demanding technique required for performing classical ballet comes together with the innovative, modern movements of contemporary dance for an experience that audiences will find truly magnificent and inspiring."

Encore will feature excerpts from two 19th century classical ballets: August Bournonville's *Napoli* and a pas de deux—or "dance for two"—from *The Talisman*, originally choreographed by Marius Petipa. The Bournonville Style showcased in *Napoli* is known to be one of the only classical techniques that has retained its authenticity throughout ballet history and presents a unique opportunity for Company Artists to perform this type of stylized and precise dance.

"In *The Talisman*, we are recreating a grand pas de deux from the longer 19th century full production", explains Pink, "which will display exhilarating tricks—what we like to call 'balletic pyrotechnics'—so it will be a real treat to see some of our up-and-coming artists in these roles."

The contemporary portion of the program includes *Vignettes* by DaYoung Jung and *The Kids Have Names* by former Leading Artist/Resident Choreographer Timothy O'Donnell. Audiences may remember Jung's *Vignettes* from the 2022 *Genesis International Choreographic Competition*, where it won the "Audience Favorite" recognition. O'Donnell's piece, set to the music of Radiohead, premiered as part of the 2023 *Originals* program. Many of the dancers on which it was created are still with the Company, allowing them to revisit a piece hailed by many as O'Donnell's most powerful work. Rounding out the program is a much-anticipated new work by Company Artist Eric Figueredo.

"I am thrilled to once again have Eric showcase his incredible choreographic voice," says Pink. "He created a new piece for himself and Leading Artist Marize Fumero that is just so beautiful—I knew it needed to be shared with our wider audiences."

Performance Information

Encore runs January 30 through February 8 at Baumgartner Center for Dance. All tickets are \$50 and may be purchased online at www.milwaukeeballet.org or through the Milwaukee Ballet Box Office at 414.902.2103.

The performance schedule is as follows:

- Friday, January 30, 2026 – 7:30 PM
- Saturday, January 31, 2026 – 2:00 PM
- Saturday, January 31, 2026 – 7:30 PM
- Sunday, February 1, 2026 – 2:00 PM
- Thursday, February 5, 2026 – 7:30 PM
- Friday, February 6, 2026 – 7:30 PM
- Saturday, February 7, 2026 – 2:00 PM
- Saturday, February 7, 2026 – 7:30 PM
- Sunday, February 8, 2026 – 2:00 PM

Encore is presented with support from media partner Visit Milwaukee. Milwaukee Ballet's 2025/26 Season is presented by Donald & Donna Baumgartner and the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF), with support from Wisconsin Arts Board, CAMPAC, Milwaukee Arts Board, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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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 and high-resolution images are available upon request.