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MILWAUKEE BALLET

MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MILWAUKEE BALLET SCHOOL & ACADEMY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

- The milestone anniversary to be observed throughout the 2025/26 School Year -

Milwaukee, WI – September 10, 2025 – Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy (MBSA) will recognize its 50th anniversary during the 2025/26 School Year. Founded in 1975, this cornerstone institution of dance education in Milwaukee will commemorate its longevity by engaging alumni, current students, and faculty in special social media content, various exclusive events, and giveback opportunities throughout the next nine months.

“This is a tremendous and exciting milestone for our organization, which has meant so much to so many,” says School Director Kristin Dimmer. “Our steadfast presence in Milwaukee is one of many things that sets us apart, and we credit this to our faculty’s consistent passion and the high quality of our training. This combination has allowed us to not only remain strong, but to expand greatly, in the past five decades.”

MBSA now serves over 700 students in three studios—located in Milwaukee’s Historic Third Ward, Fox Point, and Brookfield—through programs that attract talented students and faculty from around the world. Eighteen levels of classes provide students of every interest and skill level the chance to receive an impactful education in dance.

Children as young as two years of age can participate in “Dance Along With Me” introductory classes with their guardian, while advanced students seeking professional careers may study all the way through the Academy levels before acceptance into the prestigious Rolando Yanes Pre-Professional Program, established in 2019. The school also recently expanded its adult Dance & Fitness offerings to better serve adult students of all ages with three levels of ballet, Barre, Pilates, Yoga, and more.

“MBSA sets the standard for dance education not only in Milwaukee, but in the entire Midwest,” says Dimmer. “As the only professional studio school in our region accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance, we take the rigor of our programs very seriously, equaled only by the nurturing of our students’ confidence, joy, and self-expression.”

MBSA regularly produces students who go on to successful careers in dance, including at its home Company. Current Milwaukee Ballet Leading Artists Lizzie Tripp-Molina and Jennifer Hackbarth did the bulk of their training at MBSA, while Artist Amanda Lewis is the first Pre-Professional graduate to be promoted into the Company. Pre-Professional Program students also frequently join the ranks of the Milwaukee Ballet II (MBII) Second Company, with two graduates joining this season after a record-setting five promotions last year. Of the entire Pre-Professional class of 2025, 16 went on to various Second Companies, collegiate studies, or other dance-related career advancements.

MBSA is proud to cultivate talent that enriches its hometown and sparks worldwide awareness of Milwaukee's vast performing arts scene. It strives to continue providing education in dance and experience for a lifetime for many more decades to come.

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About Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy

Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Dance. One of only a dozen pre-professional studio schools in the country, and the only one in the Midwest, MBSA meets a rigorous set of standards for dance training and organized operation. Over 700 students from beginner through pre-professional levels enroll in school-year classes at MBSA's three locations in Greater Milwaukee, and students from around the world travel to study under its renowned faculty during its annual Summer Intensive. MBSA graduates go on to dance in studio and professional companies around the country, including Milwaukee Ballet itself.

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 School & Academy Director Kristin Dimmer and high-resolution images are available upon request.