



**Ballet Austin Invites Community to a Day of Dance  
FREE "Come Dance! 2008" Celebrating One Year  
at the Butler Dance Education Center and Community School**

EXPERIENCE FREELY: 4 HOURS OF OPEN CLASSES THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING | DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE PILATES STUDIO | CONTESTS | *THE NUTCRACKER* ROOM FEATURES SETS AND COSTUMES FROM THE PRODUCTION | DEMONSTRATIONS FROM THE UPCOMING PRODUCTION *NOT AFRAID OF THE DARK: THE SHOW THAT GLOWS!*<sup>TM</sup> WITH AN APPEARANCE AND MUSIC BY JOE SCRUGGS

**WHO:** Ballet Austin  
**WHAT:** "Come Dance! 2008" Celebration  
A Day of FREE Dance Classes  
**WHEN:** Sunday, September 7, 2008 from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
**WHERE:** Ballet Austin's Butler Dance Education Center  
501 West Third Street (at San Antonio Street)  
**AGES:** 3 and up  
**ADMISSION:** FREE  
**WEB:** [www.balletaustin.org](http://www.balletaustin.org)  
**PHONE:** 512.476.9151

**AUSTIN, TX** – Ballet Austin once again invites the entire Central Texas community to kick up its heels and celebrate a day of FREE dance/movement classes and demonstrations from the upcoming season at the Butler Dance Education Center and Community School in the heart of the 2nd Street District. One year ago, over 2,500 people attended Ballet Austin's Grand Opening Celebration to reveal the new facility that houses Ballet Austin's Community School, Academy, AustinVentures StudioTheater, and professional company along with the artistic and administrative staff. This year, on September 7th from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm, Ballet Austin celebrates the first birthday of the Butler Dance Education Center and Community School with "Come Dance! 2008."

This community celebration welcomes all to enjoy a day of FREE dance, movement, and health. "Come Dance! 2008" festivities include a variety of FREE dance classes; Pilates; yoga; special activities; *The Nutcracker* room will allow families to take pictures with the sets and costumes from the popular production; and excerpts performed live from the upcoming *Not Afraid of the Dark: The Show That Glows!*<sup>TM</sup>, with fun lighting demonstrations from creator Joe Scruggs. View a demonstration, take a class or dance all afternoon at this family friendly event.

The Butler Community School, which opened in 2007, was conceived as a hub for movement where everyone is encouraged to express and explore. Through classes that include Pilates, yoga, dance fitness, and open dance ranging from ballroom to jazz and hula to hip hop, The Butler Community School promotes recreational dance and life long fitness.

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

- FREE entry to everyone – rain or shine!
- Open dance classes and demonstrations in various studios: participation at any age and skill-level is encouraged
- Yoga and exercise classes

[more]

- Pilates demonstrations
- *Not Afraid of the Dark: The Show that Glows!*<sup>™</sup> previews with light demonstrations and music by Joe Scruggs in the AustinVentures StudioTheater,
- Photo opportunities with sets and costumes in *The Nutcracker* room
- Creative movement activities for kids, adults, and families
- Healthy and tasty food and beverages available for sampling
- Box Office open for season and production ticket sales
- Giveaways and prizes

**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND EVENTS: September 7, 2008**

2:00 – 3:00 pm Theatre Dance, Hula, Ballet Fit, Creative Movement (ages 3-5), Youth Division Ballet  
 3:00 – 4:00 pm Hula, Teen/Adult Ballet, Pre-Ballet (ages 5-7), Intermediate Division Ballet, Pilates Mat  
 4:00 – 5:00 pm Jazz, Broadway Fit, Feldenkrais, Creative Movement (ages 3-5), Pre-Professional Division Ballet  
 5:00 – 6:00 pm Hip Hop, Modern, Pre-Ballet (ages 5-7), Tap, Hatha Yoga

In addition, *Not Afraid of the Dark* demonstrations, *The Nutcracker* room, and Pilates demonstrations will take place every hour throughout the event.

**BALLET AUSTIN'S 2008/09 SEASON**

Sept 20-21, 2008: *Not Afraid of the Dark: The Show That Glows!*<sup>™</sup> at The Paramount Theatre  
 Oct 24-26, 2008: *Inaugural Season Opener* at The Long Center  
 Dec 6-23, 2008: *The Nutcracker* at The Long Center  
 Feb 13-15, 2009: *Hamlet* at The Long Center  
 Mar 26-Apr 5, 2009: *AustinVentures StudioTheater Project*  
 May 8-10, 2009: *Cinderella* at The Long Center

**About Ballet Austin**

As distinctive and dynamic as the city it calls home, Ballet Austin welcomes audiences near and far to participate in its "classically innovative" vision for the democratization of dance. With a rich history spanning five decades, acclaimed productions, and one of the nation's largest classical ballet academies, the organization is poised for an even greater future. From their new home at the Butler Dance Education Center and Community School in downtown Austin, Ballet Austin and artistic director Stephen Mills actively engage the community, dancers, and audiences alike. *The New York Times* proclaims Ballet Austin "a company with big ambitions" originating work that is "absorbing."

**NEW CONTACT INFORMATION**

501 West Third Street	Community School:	512-476-9051
Austin, Texas 78701	Fax:	512-476-3973

**MEDIA:** For interviews, details David Wyatt at david@wyattbrand.com and 512-450-4395

**WEB:** <http://www.balletaustin.org>

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