

# BALLET *Austin*

Ballet Austin II Presents

## ***Not Afraid of the Dark – The Show that Glows!™***

Ballet Austin's Second Company Lights Up the Stage with Magical Dancing that Glows in the Dark

**WHO:** Ballet Austin II  
Choreography by Stephen Mills  
Concept and Music by Joe Scruggs

**WHAT:** *Not Afraid of the Dark – The Show that Glows!™*

**WHEN:** September 20 – 21 at 2 pm and 4:30 pm

**WHERE:** Paramount Theatre  
713 Congress Avenue, (512) 472-5470

**TICKETS:** \$10 - \$14 at 1.866.4.GETTIX, [balletaustin.org](http://balletaustin.org), or at Ballet Austin's Butler Dance Education Center at W. Third and San Antonio Streets, *10 am - 6 pm weekdays*

**AUSTIN, TX** – This September, Ballet Austin II presents *Not Afraid of the Dark – The Show that Glows!™*, a magical glow-in-the-dark ballet and visual treat for all ages. Set to the whimsical tunes of children's recording artist Joe Scruggs and the choreography of Stephen Mills, Ballet Austin II delights the young and young at heart with a show that turns the darkness into a place to laugh, sing, clap, dream, dance, and do everything imaginable, except be afraid.

The *Austin American-Statesman* said, "From Scruggs' clever, sensitive lyrics to the imaginative staging and fabulous glow-in-the-dark special effects, 'Not Afraid of the Dark' is a hit. ...Kids will beg to see it over and over, and the good music and fast-paced theatrics will keep the magic alive through repeated viewings."

Featuring sashaying glow-stick figures and pirouetting popcorn, *Not Afraid of the Dark – The Show that Glows!™* is best described as a night in the life of a child. The show opens on a summer evening with the fading light of dusk, a backyard with trees and tall grass, and children chasing fireflies as they begin to appear and flash their lights. As the opening song progresses, dusk turns to twilight and then to darkness as the one of the children goes off to bed. As the child's dreams begin, the lights turn out and the magic of the glow-in-the-dark special effects take the stage. Remember that it's not scary, just a wonderful place where everyone is *Not Afraid of the Dark*.

*Not Afraid of the Dark-The Show that Glows!™* is the result of a two-and-a-half year collaboration between Ballet Austin Artistic Director, Stephen Mills and nationally known children's recording artist, Joe Scruggs. Now in its seventh year of touring, Ballet Austin II continues to captivate families with this luminous performance.

"This unique collaboration is a wonderful opportunity to talk to young audiences in a playful, childlike atmosphere exploring the most universal of children's fears – the dark," said Stephen Mills, artistic director of Ballet Austin. "One of my goals when creating this ballet was to open the world of dance and art to children in a format that is not only accessible but enjoyable for the entire family."

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## **BALLET AUSTIN II**

Ballet Austin II, Ballet Austin's 10-member apprentice program and second company, was launched in 1999. The dancers perform as the corps de ballet in full-length performances with the main company as well as presenting their own extensive roster of touring and educational programs across the state. Ballet Austin II graduates have gone on to dance with the main Ballet Austin Company as well as with other professional ballet companies around the nation.

**PREVIEW:** Preview demos of *Not Afraid of the Dark – The Show that Glows!*<sup>™</sup> at Ballet Austin's "Come Dance! 2008": A Day of FREE Dance Classes on Sunday, September 7, every hour on the hour from 2 – 6 pm at the Butler Dance Education Center, 501 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Creator Joe Scruggs will be on hand with musical performances and lighting demonstrations.

## **Stephen Mills, Artistic Director**

Mr. Mills has created more than 40 works for companies in the United States and abroad. His ballets are in the repertoires of such companies as The Atlanta Ballet, Washington Ballet, Cuballet in Havana, Cuba, BalletMet Columbus, The DaytonBallet, The Sarasota Ballet of Florida, Ballet Pacifica, Dallas Black Dance Theater, The Louisville Ballet, The Nashville Ballet, Fort Worth/Dallas Ballet and Kaleidoscope. He has worked in collaboration with such luminaries as the eight-time Grammy Award-winning band, Asleep at the Wheel, and Shawn Colvin. In addition to his work as a choreographer, Mr. Mills is committed as a master teacher to developing dancers. He has been a teacher at many pre-professional academies including Goucher College; Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts in Dallas; The Virginia School of the Arts; The New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts; Stephens College and Point Park College in Pittsburgh. Mr. Mills also serves on the Board of Trustees of the national dance service organization, Dance USA.

## **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**

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**IMAGES:** <http://media.wyattbrand.com> for print-ready, password-free images

**MEDIA:** For interviews, details contact David Wyatt at [david@wyattbrand.com](mailto:david@wyattbrand.com) and (512) 450.4395

**WEB:** <http://www.balletaustin.org> and [www.notafraidofthedark.com](http://www.notafraidofthedark.com) (see videos)

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