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Ballet Austin Lights Up the Stage with its 2004-2005 Season

Ballet Austin presents Peter Pan, The Nutcracker, Director's Choice, Light / The Humanity Project and Swan Lake in 2004-2005

AUSTIN, TX – May 19, 2004 – Under the artistic direction of Stephen Mills, Ballet Austin presents its 2004-2005 season complete with classical favorites and powerful new works. The season begins in Neverland with *Peter Pan*, followed by a visit to the Land of the Sugar Plum Fairy in the 42nd annual production of *The Nutcracker*. The season switches gears in 2005, with edgy, imaginative works from three gifted choreographers in *Director's Choice* followed by the world premiere of *Light / The Humanity Project*, a Mills original work. Finally, the season closes with an updated version of the classical favorite *Swan Lake*.

BALLET AUSTIN'S 2004-2005 SEASON

Peter Pan

October 15 & 16 at 8:00 p.m.

October 17 at 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Bass Concert Hall

The season starts off with the high-flying adventures of a boy from Neverland. *Peter Pan*, choreographed by The Washington Ballet Artistic Director Septime Webre, and set to the music of Carmon DeLeone, is based on J.M. Barrie's timeless tale of the boy who doesn't want to grow up. This adventure-filled ballet comes complete with pirates, pixie dust, tick-tocking crocodiles and the magic of flight.

In 2001, an arts critic from *The Washington Times* said of Webre's *Peter Pan*, "Even with the (dancers) flying, the baroque designs and the lush (musical) score, the dancing is dynamic and complex enough to take pride of place."

The 42nd Annual Production of *The Nutcracker*

December 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 at 2:00 p.m.

December 10, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21 at 7:30 p.m.
Bass Concert Hall

Ballet Austin is proud to present Central Texas' most beloved holiday tradition, *The Nutcracker*, choreographed by Mills, and set to the timeless music of Pyotr Tchaikovsky, with live accompaniment by the Austin Symphony Orchestra.

Ballet Austin audiences are in for the highlight of the holidays, swirling along with Clara and company through a snow globe of magic and merriment. Prepare to be bewitched all over again. This twinkling tradition is sure to delight all ages.

Director's Choice

February 11, 12, 14 at 8:00 p.m.
February 13 at 2:00 p.m.
Paramount Theatre

When the spark of creativity ignites the imaginations of three gifted choreographers, anything can happen. High energy, beauty and creativity are the hallmarks of Mills' choices for this dynamic production presenting works by Thaddeus Davis, Gina Patterson and Stephen Mills. *Director's Choice* is a hotbed for emerging arts and continues to delight audiences year after year. Last season's *Director's Choice* sold out!

Light / The Humanity Project

April 1, 2 at 8:00 p.m.
April 3 at 2:00 p.m.
Bass Concert Hall

Ballet Austin brings to the stage Mills' most personal work to date. *Light / The Humanity Project* will be created as the culmination of an educational journey to Eastern Europe. *Light / The Humanity Project* is a collaboration with the Holocaust Museum Houston, the Warren Family Foundation's Teaching Fellowship and scholars from the College of Education at The University of Texas at Austin. The work will utilize Mills' innovative approach to movement to reflect upon human resilience and transcendence. By providing an opportunity to explore what it means to be human, this work ultimately seeks out the promise of courage, tolerance, hope and humanity.

Swan Lake

May 13, 14 at 8:00 p.m.
May 14 at 3:00 p.m.
May 15 at 2:00 p.m.
Bass Concert Hall

Light and dark. Truth and deception. Good and evil. An enchanting story of life's struggle between opposing forces, it's the ultimate fairy tale – and the

ultimate ballet. Updated and set in New York's high society of 1912, this production delivers all the ethereal beauty and drama expected from such a classic.

In addition to Ballet Austin's regular season, Ballet Austin II presents *Not Afraid of the Dark – The Show that Glows!*TM, September 10 – 12, 2004. Featuring the music of Joe Scruggs, Ballet Austin II delights children of all ages with a production that turns darkness into a place to laugh, sing, clap, dream, dance and do everything imaginable – except be afraid. Set to the whimsical tunes of Austin's song master, this glow-in-the-dark delight features such wonders as sashaying stick figures and pirouetting popcorn.

For season ticket information, please contact the Ballet Austin Box Office at (512) 476-2163, or visit www.balletaustin.org.

Season Underwriter:	Austin Ventures
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Ballet Austin

Under the leadership of artistic director Stephen Mills, Ballet Austin has uniquely combined classical dance with innovative style and movement. Ballet Austin presents five productions each year in Austin, tours nationally and is a financially stable \$4 million organization. The Company employs 21 professional dancers from around the world to live in Austin for 34 weeks each season. Ballet Austin II and the Ballet Austin Academy serve as educational arms that strengthen the organization's core purpose. The Ballet Austin Academy is one of the largest in the United States, serving more than 900 students annually. Ballet Austin has established itself as a world-class company that makes ballet accessible to all and enhances Austin's reputation as a city that thrives in the arts.

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