



**Ballet Austin II presents**  
***Peter and the Wolf***  
**an Interactive and Engaging Dance Production**  
**for the Whole Family**

**WHO:** Ballet Austin II  
Choreography: Stephen Mills  
Music: Sergei Prokofiev

**WHAT:** *Peter and the Wolf*

**WHEN:** Sept 12, 13, 19, 20 at 2 pm & 4 pm

**WHERE:** The AustinVentures StudioTheater  
at the Butler Dance Education Center  
501 West Third Street, Austin, Texas 78701

**TICKETS:** \$14

**AUSTIN, TX** - Ballet Austin II—Ballet Austin's apprentice program and second company—invites central Texas families to participate in the performance of the beloved children's classic, *Peter and the Wolf*. The production, choreographed by artistic director Stephen Mills to the music of Prokofiev, and intended as both entertaining and educational for families with little ones between the ages of two and eight. With humor, recorded narration by Sean Connery, and each principal character having its own musical instrument, young audiences are certain to follow this exciting tale.

In 1936 Sergei Prokofiev was commissioned by the Central Children's Theatre in Moscow to write a new musical symphony for children. Intrigued by the invitation, Prokofiev completed the music and text for *Peter and the Wolf* in just four days. His playful classic would become known for how consistently it would delight and inspire children and adults of all ages for years to come. It has been performed and interpreted thousands of times over since its creation and in 1991, Ballet Austin crafted this unique version.

The compelling story tells of a young boy who ventures out into the meadow, against his grandfather's orders, to catch a wolf. The wolf is also being chased by the village's best hunters. But, with the help of his animal friends, Peter catches the wolf using only a rope lasso. The brave Peter, accompanied by the hunters and his animal friends, becomes the hero of his village. Prokofiev built in an educational tool, by assigning each of the central characters their own instrument: Peter (string instruments), the Grandfather (bassoon), the Duck (oboe), the Cat (clarinet), the Bird (flute) and the Wolf (horns).

Each production will open with an interactive section in which the audience (children) will help the dancers create choreography for some of the characters that will eventually be used in that very performance. Recorded narration by Sean Connery will also help



illuminate the plot.

The production will begin the same weekend as Ballet Austin's annual "Come Dance! 2009" (day of free classes, this year 2-6 on Sunday the 13th) and will run for two weekends only.

### **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, a commitment to creating access to programs 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 & 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."

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

501 West Third Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

Box Office: 512.476.2163  
Academy: 512.476.9151  
General info: 512.476.9151  
Fax: 512.476.3973

**IMAGES:** david@wyattbrand.com for print-ready, password-free images  
**MEDIA:** For interviews, details—David Wyatt at david@wyattbrand.com or 512.450.4395  
**WEB:** www.balletaustin.org/comedance

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*Austin*

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