



Ballet Austin Is Local Venue for “National Dance Day” July 30

Event promoted by FOX hit series *So You Think You Can Dance* gives dance fans of all skill-levels the chance to get moving

WHO: Ballet Austin’s Butler Community School
WHAT: **National Dance Day 2011 Classes Hosted by Ballet Austin**
WHEN: Saturday, July 30, 2011
WHERE: Ballet Austin’s Butler Dance Education Center
501 West Third Street (at San Antonio Street)
AGES: Adults and children ages 8 and up
ADMISSION: ALL CLASSES that day available for a **\$5 (per class) tax-deductible donation** benefiting Ballet Austin's scholarship program

AUSTIN, TX – July 13, 2011 – On Saturday, July 30, Ballet Austin’s Butler Community School (BCS) serves as the local venue for the second-annual National Dance Day, an event highly promoted by the hit FOX series *So You Think You Can Dance*.

Dance fans of all skill levels are invited to participate in three featured National Dance Day classes covering beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels at Ballet Austin’s Butler Dance Education Center, 501 West Third Street. Choreography for the classes is created by celebrity choreographers Mary Murphy, Robin Antin, and NappyTabs duo Tabitha and Napoleon Dumo. Ballet Austin’s participation in National Dance Day aligns with the BCS’s focus on engaging, educating, and empowering people of all skill levels and backgrounds to adopt healthy lifestyles through dance and regular physical activity.

Ballet Austin’s National Dance Day featured classes:

- 10–10:45 am: **Everybody Dance** (Samba-inspired choreography for all skill levels) – Tina-Michelle Pittsley, Instructor; Choreography provided by Mary Murphy
- 1:45–2:45 pm: **Intermediate Intensive** (Jazz/funk-inspired choreography) – Kathryn Waggoner, Instructor; Choreography provided by Robin Antin
- 3–4 pm: **Master Class** (Hip hop-inspired choreography) – Kathryn Waggoner and Boo Ruiz, Instructors; Choreography provided by NappyTabs

All classes on Saturday, July 30, are open to the public for a \$5 tax-deductible donation. Donations benefit Ballet Austin’s scholarship program, which is used to award between \$150,000 and \$200,000 in financial aid/scholarships to Ballet Austin students annually.

BCS classes are offered seven days a week with dance styles ranging from jazz, hip hop, hula, an award-winning Pilates Center, dance fitness, and more. With over 4,000 students of all ages taking classes at the Butler Dance Education Center facility in the last 12 months alone, Ballet Austin’s open class community school and ballet academy comprises one of the largest dance training centers in the U.S. associated with a professional ballet company.

To watch the featured class instructional videos and for more information, visit balletaustin.org/nationaldanceday

About National Dance Day

National Dance Day is a grassroots initiative spearheaded by the Dizzy Feet Foundation that encourages individuals, families, organizations and communities from across the nation to come together through their creative expression in dance. The event began in 2010 to continue to generate national awareness for dance, a medium of expression and storytelling which, through shows like *So You Think You Can Dance*, has proven its value in bringing individuals from all walks of life together through a positive platform that has no boundaries and cultivates imagination and passion. Most importantly, the day is intended to promote health and wellness nationwide. National Dance Day was recognized by Congress last year through the efforts of Nigel Lythgoe, executive producer and co-creator of the hit FOX series *So You Think You Can Dance* and founder of the Dizzy Feet Foundation along with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC).

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 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

Butler Community School: 512.476.9051
General info: 512.476.9151
Fax: 512.476.3073

IMAGES: luann.glowacz@balletaustin.org for print-ready, password-free images
MEDIA: For interviews, details contact LuAnn Glowacz at 512.476.9151, ext. 101
WEB: www.balletaustin.org

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