

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

October 3, 2011

As it enters its third season, **Missouri Ballet Theatre** (MBT) will continue to expand and reinvent the art of dance through collaboration with St. Louis-area arts organizations, musicians, theater, and dance studios.

Comprised of **14 dancers** from throughout the country, MBT's mission is to provide high-quality productions of classical ballet's most beloved works, as well as showcase movement as a unique experience that complements and inspires the work of artists from other media. Additionally, the company is dedicated to introducing the richness of the dance tradition to schoolchildren and others through its student performances and educational outreach programs.

Under the direction of company founder **Adam Sage**, the company's season will open December 16-20 with the holiday favorite, **The Nutcracker**, to be presented in the intimate atmosphere of the Edison Theatre on the campus of Washington University. This charming tale and holiday favorite follows a young girl's adventures with her dearly beloved nutcracker turned prince to a magical dream world of sweets and fantasy. The company's professional dancers will be augmented by more than 60 St. Louis-area dance students chosen through an audition held in early September, an opportunity for developing dancers to perform outside of their school affiliations with a professional company.

Through its **educational outreach** programs, MBT also will host three full-length performances of *The Nutcracker* to area schoolchildren on Monday, December 19, at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., and on Tuesday, December 20, at 10:30 a.m. Each student will be provided a study guide that will assist them in understanding the art form and the production. Students will be able to experience the holiday party with Clara and her brother Fritz, thrill at the tension of the battle between the Mouse King and the Nutcracker, share the beautiful "Dance of the Snowflakes" and "Waltz of the Flowers", and be transfixed by the magical pairing of the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier that concludes the ballet. Tickets for the production are \$6.00 per seat (1 free teacher seat for every 10 students) and must be purchased (reservation form and payment received) by Monday, October 17. A wait list will be created in the case of sold-out performances, and another show may be added. Visit <http://missouriballettheatre.org/> to learn more about this special opportunity to experience *The Nutcracker*.

On March 9 and 10, 2012, MBT will present **Concepts II**, its innovative production that melds contemporary movement influenced by classical roots with the talents and vision of local musicians, composers, and vocalists. The world premiere of this production in 2011 blended the soaring strands of a live performance from a St. Louis-based opera tenor with original, thought-provoking choreography; married the fun of western swing with contemporary ballet; and debuted an original composition that joined gypsy jazz, rock and roll and classical influences with modern dance. Join MBT again as it explores the endless opportunities for this inspiring collaboration with the St. Louis-area art community.

The season concludes June 1-3, 2012, with the company's first full-length storybook ballet, **Cinderella**. The telling of this fairy tale about a tenacious and optimistic girl, her evil and conniving step-family, and the love of a prince will feature music from Sergei Prokofiev's original score and choreography by Director Sage. Information about auditions for supporting parts will be posted on the company's website by March 2012 (see <http://missouriballettheatre.org/>).

For more information about MBT, contact Director Adam Sage at info@missouriballettheatre.org or by telephone at (314) 397-7897.



dedicated to
innovation,
collaboration
and **diversity**

Adam Sage
Founder/Artistic Director

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Missouri Ballet Theatre: 2011-12 Season

All MBT performances are held at the Edison Theatre, Washington University, located at 6445 Forsyth Boulevard, St. Louis. Tickets may be purchased from the Edison box office (edison@wustl.edu) or by calling the box office at (314) 935-6543. Box office hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Further information about each of the performances can be found at <http://missouriballettheatre.org/>.

The Nutcracker Friday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, December 17, 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
 Sunday, December 18, 2:30 p.m.
 Tuesday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.

Concepts II Friday, March 9, 8 p.m.
 Saturday, March 10, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Cinderella Friday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, June 2, 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
 Sunday, June 3, 2:30 p.m.



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Adam Sage
Founder/Artistic Director

Robert PhilanderValentine
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