

**CINCINNATI BALLET
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CINCINNATI BALLET PARTNERS WITH CINCINNATI BELL
TO OFFER DANCE EDUCATION IN THIRD GRADES**

CincyDance Program brings students of diverse backgrounds together to learn ballet technique

CINCINNATI, OH –Cincinnati Ballet is entering the 15th year of its flagship educational program CincyDance, which offers free dance classes and dancewear to the region’s third graders in a program sponsored by Cincinnati Bell.

“We are deeply grateful for this support from Cincinnati Bell,” says Victoria Morgan, Cincinnati Ballet CEO and Artistic Director. “This sponsorship allows us reach more children in more schools, expanding the scope and impact of this vital program.”

This fall, Cincinnati Bell offered a contest for students, teachers and parents to nominate their school for the CincyDance! Program. From the applications, Ockerman Elementary School in Florence, Kentucky, St. Jude’s Elementary School in Bridgetown and Winton Montessori Elementary School in Spring Grove Village were selected to participate.

Ockerman Elementary School’s application essay emphasized the students’ need for exposure and participation in the arts: “Our school has a very diverse population of income levels. Many of our children would never have an opportunity to be exposed to the arts if we were not able to bring in free programs through the school. Being able to participate in it would be something these kids would never forget.”

Tom Sandman, Senior Manager of Community Relations with Cincinnati Bell, says, “We are thrilled to participate in the development of these students’ confidence and abilities. This program brings dance into the lives and communities of our region, bringing together children of diverse backgrounds to participate in one positive, unifying activity. We look forward to witnessing the growth in our CincyDance students.”

During its 15 years, CincyDance has worked with dozens of elementary schools, including Academy of World Languages, Bond Hill Academy, Carnegie Arts Center, Carson Elementary, Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy, Christ Emmanuel Christian Academy, Ft. Wright Elementary, Glenn O. Swing, Hays-Porter, Hoffman-Parham, St. Joseph’s Academy, Ethel M. Taylor Academy, W.E.B. Dubois Academy and Winton Hills Academy.

“CincyDance! brings children from all over the region and all over the world together to learn basic ballet technique.” says Julie Sunderland, Cincinnati Ballet Education and Outreach Manager. “Most importantly, it gives them the chance to freely express themselves through this

universally beloved art form. Dance is also amazing for physical fitness. It's art *and* gym in one."

Cincinnati Bell is working with Fox 19 to create special video segments featuring CincyDance students at select participating schools and community centers, including the Academy of World Languages, Carnegie Arts Center, Ft. Wright Elementary, Hays-Porter and Winton Hills Academy. The videos will be featured on Fox 19's news broadcasts and on Cincinnati Bell's Facebook page.

For more information about CincyDance and other Cincinnati Ballet education and outreach programs, visit cballet.org/education.

About CincyDance!

Cincinnati Ballet's CincyDance! presented by Cincinnati Bell program provides **free dance classes and dance attire** to young people with no previous formal dance training. We aspire to take a long-term approach to exposing children from a wide range of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds to dance, and to give them the chance to learn both the **discipline** and the **joy of dance** in a safe, structured and supportive environment. The CincyDance! program consists of three parts: The First Steps Residency, Ballet Foundations, and ultimately The Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy Experience.

First Steps Residency (all third graders)

- Each fall, professional faculty from Cincinnati Ballet will provide six-week dance workshops for third grade students at selected schools in the Greater Cincinnati area. Through these weekly one-hour presentations students will be introduced to dance basics, specifically ballet. A selected group of students who show a strong interest and natural aptitude for dance will be invited to attend the Ballet Foundations program at Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy.

Ballet Foundations (selected third graders from First Step Residency)

- Ballet Foundations includes a tuition-free, 20-week program designed specifically for those students chosen from the First Steps Residency portion of CincyDance! (approximately five students from each school will go on to participate in Ballet Foundations). Hour-long classes consist of ballet supplemented by other dance disciplines, including modern, jazz and hip-hop. Classes are held at Cincinnati Ballet Center Downtown Studios.
- Students participating in Ballet Foundations are supplied with adequate ballet attire including leotards, tights and ballet shoes.

Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy Experience

Students chosen by Cincinnati Ballet Academy staff may continue full-time dance training through the **Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy Experience** with scholarships awarded on a basis of financial need and merit. At this point students may attend Cincinnati Ballet Academy classes at the studio location that is most convenient for their families: Downtown Cincinnati or Blue Ash.

2009-2010 DANCE EDUCATION SPONSORS

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About Cincinnati Ballet

Since 1963, Cincinnati Ballet has been the cornerstone professional ballet company of the region, presenting a mix of important classical full-length ballets and an adventurous, vibrant mix of repertory ballets, regularly with live orchestral accompaniment. Cincinnati Ballet's mission is to inspire hope and joy in our community and beyond through the power and passion of dance. Our mantra is "Everybody dances." To that end, Cincinnati Ballet presents exhilarating performances, extensive education outreach programs (including professional lecture-demos, residencies, scholarship programs and student matinees), and offers top level professional ballet training at Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy, which enjoys an enrollment of more than a thousand participants in multi-level programs across two studio campuses.

Cincinnati Ballet's 2010 -2011 Season is generously sponsored by Season Sponsor The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation, Music Sponsor The Louise Dieterle Nippert Musical Arts Fund and Associate Sponsor Rhonda and Larry A. Sheakley Family Foundation

Cincinnati Ballet gratefully acknowledges support from organizations and individuals throughout the region including Cincinnati Bell, Bill & Sue Friedlander, Mr. & Mrs. Lorrence T. Kellar and Mona S. Foad, M.D. Cincinnati Dermatology Center.

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