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CINCINNATI BALLET SELECTS NEW DEAN FOR CINCINNATI BALLET OTTO M. BUDIG ACADEMY

Catherine Batcheller, internationally renowned dancer and teacher, joins Cincinnati Ballet to lead its pre-professional ballet school

CINCINNATI, June 14, 2010—Cincinnati Ballet is pleased to announce the hire of internationally renowned dancer and teacher Catherine Batcheller as the new Dean of its associated pre-professional school Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy.

“Catherine brings to the role of Academy Dean a great passion for ballet education and an exciting, dynamic vision for expanding the profile of Cincinnati Ballet Academy,” says Victoria Morgan, Artistic Director and CEO of Cincinnati Ballet. “We look forward to connecting her outstanding artistic and academic ideas with our strategic plan, and we’re thrilled to bring her energy and vision into the studios and the offices.”

Batcheller offers vast experience from her distinguished, internationally prominent, 20-year performing and teaching career. She has danced as principal in some of the world’s leading companies, including Stuttgart Ballet, San Francisco Ballet and Birmingham Royal Ballet. She has worked with the 20th century’s most significant choreographers such as Jiří Kylián, William Forsythe, Maurice Bejart, Hans van Manen and John Cranko. She co-founded and co-directed the dance company Configuration Dance, and since 2008 she has served as Artistic Director for Ballet Conservatory of South Texas in San Antonio.

“Cincinnati Ballet is fortunate to have Catherine Batcheller joining their team to lead the school forward into exciting new territories. With her passion for dance and ability to inspire, Cincinnati Ballet Academy will reach new insight into the world of dance,” says world-renowned Czech choreographer Jiří Kylián, considered by much of the dance world to be the most important and influential European choreographer in the contemporary realm of dance.

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“I met her in the 90s in Stuttgart, while creating *Stepping Stones* for the company,” says Kylián. “She became a very prominent figure in this work. This was not only because of her extraordinary qualities as a dancer, but equally so because of her qualities as a human being and a colleague to the other dancers. Cathy is a natural communicator and an enthusiastic promoter of the art, to which she has dedicated all her life. In her career she was exposed to creations of some of the finest choreographers of the 20th century.”

“I am thrilled to be joining Cincinnati Ballet’s staff,” says Batcheller. “Cincinnati Ballet Academy is a wonderful institution with a strong, pre-professional reputation. I am eager to make connections and grow the profile of this academy. I’m looking forward to building strong relationships with the school, the students and their families, the company and the community.”

Batcheller joins Cincinnati Ballet in early August. Cincinnati Ballet Academy Fall Semester begins August 23.

BIO: Catherine Batcheller

Catherine Batcheller comes to Cincinnati Ballet from the Ballet Conservatory of South Texas in San Antonio, a pre-professional ballet academy and company. She was the Artistic Director for both the company and the academy, where she served as principal teacher, designing curriculum, evaluating students, arranging performances and creating and staging choreography. She co-founded, co-directed and danced for Configuration Dance, now known as Configuration Dance Theatre (CDT) in New York. She was the director of Configuration Dance Studio, the school associated with CDT. She has taught ballet all over the country and in Germany, including Stuttgart Ballet, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Boston Ballet and San Francisco Ballet.

She was principal dancer at one of the world’s leading ballet companies, Germany’s Stuttgart Ballet, where she danced for nine years. She also danced principal roles for Birmingham Royal Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. During her distinguished dance career, she worked with the 20th century’s most significant choreographers, including Jiří Kylián, William Forsythe, Maurice Bejart, Hans van Manen, James Kudelka, Wayne McGregor, David Bentley and Stanton Welch. She danced works by John Cranko, Sir Kenneth MacMillan, George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins and Frederick Ashton.

She has choreographed and staged choreography for the Ballet Conservatory of South Texas, Portland Ballet, Alberta Ballet School, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, American Academy of Ballet, Greenwich Ballet Academy and many others, including solos for competitions and auditions. Catherine holds a Master of Art in Dance in Education and Community from Birmingham University in England.

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She has appeared as a guest dancer in Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland, USA and England and in 1983, placed 6th at the international ballet competition at Varna. Her ballet training includes Cleveland Ballet School, Washington School of Ballet and San Francisco Ballet School. She spent summers training at School of American Ballet, Joffrey Ballet and American Ballet Theatre, where she studied on scholarship.

About Cincinnati Ballet

For 46 years, Cincinnati Ballet has been the cornerstone professional ballet company of the region, presenting a mix of important classical full-length ballets and an adventurous and 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: "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 over a thousand participants in multi-leveled programs at The Cincinnati Ballet Center. Cincinnati Ballet Academy's Rhythm & Motion and Adult Ballet classes were recently lauded nationally in "36 Hours in Cincinnati, Ohio," a *New York Times* travel article.

Cincinnati Ballet's 2009-2010 Season is generously sponsored by Season Sponsor The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation and Associate Sponsor Rhonda and Larry A. Sheakley Family Foundation

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