

Press Release:

For: Ballet Tennessee Spring Festival of Dance, May 10, 7:00 pm, at Hayes Theater, UTC Fine Arts Center

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Ballet Tennessee presents an entertaining evening of ballet and contemporary dance at the Roland Hayes Concert Hall, UTC Fine Arts Center at 7:00pm. The company and training program students will perform the full length ballet, *Graduation Ball* to music of Johann Strauss II with guest artists, Ian Morris from New York and Alabama Ballet, and Lester Badenoch from Atlanta Ballet. The guest artists also join the company to perform *Magical Mystery*, a contemporary ballet revived from an earlier work based on the music of the Beatles.

The Youth Ensemble and Adult Dance Ensemble will perform choreography by Brittany J. Mills and Anna Baker-VanCura respectively.

Tickets on sale: April 28th at the UTC Fine Arts Center Box Office: (423) 425-4371
It is reserved seating. Adults: \$15 Children/Seniors: \$12

More about Ballet Tennessee and the works to be performed:

Ballet Tennessee will experience a special celebratory marker on May 10th at this performance. Two of its lead dancers, Andrea Griggs and Bethany Miller, who have grown up through the company's training program for the past 12 years are graduating from the Chattanooga Christian School. The two girls have received their complete training from the VanCura Ballet Conservatory and danced the years with Ballet Tennessee through children's parts, corps de ballet and into the major roles in *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty*. Both girls will be going to pursue dance. Andrea Griggs will dance professionally before college and is on the usual circuit of auditions for ballet companies to secure a position. Bethany Miller has auditioned and been accepted into colleges with strong ballet programs and is selecting the best one for her needs.

Also graduating is first year company dancer, Joseph Lynch from Center for Creative Arts and former company dancer and VBC teacher intern, Emily Pietrantone. One other graduate who is new to Ballet Tennessee this year is Robert Maynard from Baylor School.

Graduation Ball, choreographed in the 1940's by David Lichine for the Original Ballet Russe, has become a ballet favorite for audiences because of its charming and delightful story about the antics of an all girls school and boys military academy having an annual celebration for graduation. There is also a sub plot romance between the old general and stern head mistress. This ballet was in American Ballet Theater's repertory for decades and has lately found new audiences in Europe and with regional companies in America. *Magical Mystery* highlights the dancers' dramatic and comedic talents experiencing the highlights of the sixties and seventies through the changing fashions, music, and world events.