



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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June 20, 2023

## **STUDENT EXCHANGE VISAS APPROVED FOR BALLET WEST ACADEMY PROFESSIONAL TRAINING DIVISION**

**SALT LAKE CITY, UT** – The Frederick Quinney Lawson Ballet West Academy has received approval from the United States Student and Exchange Visitor Program to host international students beginning with the 2023 -2024 season. Students from across the world can now audition and obtain an educational visa for the Ballet West Academy Professional Training Division.

“Ballet is truly an international artform and language, and we are thrilled to welcome elite students from all over the world,” said Ballet West Academy Director Evelyn Cisneros-Legate. “We know this will enrich our community of dancers, and influence the broader Salt Lake City dance community. I am excited to support our mission of diversity and access to the arts with greater opportunities for international students.”

Ballet West has a long history of hosting dancers from all over the world and is currently the home to several international dancers in the main company. Additionally, over fifty percent of the Ballet West main company has trained with the Ballet West Academy.

Students in the Ballet West Academy Training program work four to five hours six days a week in ballet technique, pointe, variations, pas de deux, contemporary, character, flamenco, Pilates, conditioning, and seminars on health and music. Faculty members and instructors all have professional dancing background from large-scale dance companies. Students also have the advantage of being seen by Ballet West’s Artistic Director Adam Sklute, who is committed to hiring company dancers trained at the Academy.

The Ballet West Academy also offers housing at a 28-unit apartment complex dedicated to the Ballet West student community, with leases running in conjunction with student sessions. The double-occupancy apartments are located just 1.4 miles from the Ballet Centre with easy access to bus and light rail. The building also includes onsite resident advisors, security features, furnishings, and utility fees. For more information about housing, visit <https://www.academy.balletwest.org/housing>.

For more information about the Professional Training Division, visit <https://www.academy.balletwest.org/professional-slc>

## **PRESS INQUIRIES**

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## **ABOUT BALLET WEST**

BALLET WEST, one of America's leading and largest ballet companies, led by Artistic Director Adam Sklute, has earned an international reputation for artistic innovation and excellence since its founding in 1963. For more than 50 years, the Salt Lake City-based Company has entertained and excited audiences in Utah and worldwide by presenting great classical ballets, historical masterpieces, and new cutting-edge creations with only the highest artistic and professional standards. The Company continues to build future ballet artists and audiences by providing classical ballet training through the Frederick Q. Lawson Ballet West Academy and its four campuses and more than 1,000 students. Ballet West also operates one of the largest outreach and education programs in the country which reaches hundreds of thousands of children and adults throughout Utah and the Intermountain Region every year. The 22/23 Season is generously sponsored by the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation and Salt Lake Zoo, Arts & Parks, and Intermountain Health Care.

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