

## BALLET ICON

The ballet world recently lost a legend and true pioneer of ballet in Utah. Bené Arnold passed away last week. We want to take a moment to honor her.

Imagine that you are a young dancer auditioning for The Nutcracker at Ballet West and in walks a 70-something woman who does "a big cartwheel right into the splits!" - her signature move. Ballet West Artistic Director, Adam Sklute recalled this experience describing Bené as "passionate, joyous, very funny".

In 1964 Bené Arnold joined Ballet West as the company's first Ballet Mistress. She also taught on the faculty of the University of Utah Ballet Department. During her time at Ballet West, she was a children's Rehearsal Director to young dancers in The Nutcracker, as well as Director of what would eventually become the Ballet West Academy.

It is almost impossible to calculate the number of dancers that Bené Arnold has taught, from the smallest buffoon in The Nutcracker, to university students, and professional dancers. Her reach is far and her inspiring words never forgotten.

[Learn more here.](#)

## TRAINEE PERFORMANCE



Students from the Frederick Quinney Lawson Ballet West Academy Trainee Program - under the direction of James Payne - present works in progress by Trey McIntyre and selections from classical repertoire including "Kingdom of the Shades" choreography after Petipa.

The Trainee Division is the highest level of the Academy. These students are amazing. They have been dancing for many years and are preparing for the next step in their ballet careers - a second company or company contract.

Come see this amazing group at the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center in the Leona Wagner Black Box on February 29<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm. The performance is open to families and we would like to encourage all students to come support our Trainees. We are offering BWA student tickets for just \$7 through the ticketing link [here](#).

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

We have an amazing opportunity for those of you who are pursuing a non-traditional (NON-public-school) education for 2024-2025. Utah Fits All offers a scholarship of up to \$8,000 to be used on school or after school programs among other things. That means you can use the funds for Ballet West Academy! The application opens February 28<sup>th</sup> and closes April 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in eligibility requirements and how funds may be used, check out the website [here](#). Scroll down for all the important details!

## SWEETHEARTS DANCE

We are so excited to have a SWEETHEARTS SEMI-FORMAL DANCE for all academy students! Join us at the Ballet Centre for sweet treats and dancing. The dance will be held on Presidents Day so regular classes are cancelled and everyone can participate in the fun. Younger students are invited from 4:30-6:00 pm. Students 13 and older are welcome from 6:00-8:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 per student and include a plus one for an outside (non-academy student) guest. Let's let our hair down and have some fun with all the campuses together! You can purchase tickets for this event through your account.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES

- **Shake It Off Masterclass** - February 3, 5:00-6:30 at Ballet Centre.
- **Ballet Centre** - College Day - February 3
- **Utah County Campus** - College Month - Feb. 3, 10, 17
- **Ballet West Performs Swan Lake** - February 9-17 at the Capitol Theatre. [Purchase tickets here.](#)
- **Presidents Day** - No Classes - All Campuses - February 19<sup>th</sup>
- **Sweethearts Dance** - February 19<sup>th</sup> - Ballet Centre - \$20
- **Park City** - Ski Break - No Classes - February 19-25
- **Ballet Centre and Trolley** - Parent Observation - February 20-26
- **Trainee Performance** - February 29 7:00 pm and March 1 - 7:00 pm [Tickets here.](#)
- **Contemporary Showcase** - All Campuses - Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center, March 14-16

