



For Immediate Release

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Ballet Lubbock Celebrates:

10 Years with Artistic Director, Yvonne Racz

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LUBBOCK – Preparing for the 2007-08 school year and season, Ballet Lubbock prepares a year-long celebration of 10 years with Artistic Director Yvonne Racz. A Lubbock native, Ms. Racz enjoyed a successful international career in dance before returning to her hometown to take the helm of this nonprofit organization.

Under Ms. Racz's leadership, Ballet Lubbock has set and surpassed many significant milestones:

- A **permanent facility**, housing 4 studio-classrooms, has been built in Southwest Lubbock
- The **pre-professional Ballet Lubbock Company** has grown, excelled and expanded, and has become an adjudicated member of Regional Dance America
- In the 2006-07 season alone, **attendance records** for both The Nutcracker and the Ballet's Spring Performance – A Midsummer Night's Dream – substantially surpassed all previous records
- Ballet Lubbock **School enrollment** has increased more than tenfold
- **Ballet Lubbock students** are consistently admitted to the nation's top-ranked summer intensives, university ballet departments, and professional companies
- **Ballet Lubbock's staff** now includes 2 full-time administrators and 10 teaching faculty
- **Outreach classes** bring Ballet Lubbock classes to 2 Lubbock community centers
- **Outreach performances** of The Nutcracker bring thousands of under-served members of our community to a free ballet performance
- **...and the list of accomplishments goes on.**

Ms. Racz took on the Artistic Director position in December of 1996 as one artistic director departed—just *two weeks* before the Ballet's annual production of The Nutcracker. Since then, her take-charge attitude and her vision for classical dance on the South Plains have transformed Ballet Lubbock and the greater Lubbock community.

Throughout the 2007-08 school year and season, Ballet Lubbock's entire community will recognize Ms. Racz's decade-long tenure with special events, tributes, and gifts of our gratitude. As public events are scheduled, they will be announced to the media and at the **Ballet Lubbock website, www.BalletLubbock.org**. Members of the community interested in contributing to this celebratory year are urged to contact Executive Director Laura Berry, by calling 806.785.3090 during regular business hours.

Opportunities to interview Yvonne Racz may be scheduled by contacting Ballet Lubbock; contact info cited above. Images and photographs may likewise be obtained by contacting the Ballet.

Ballet Lubbock is a private nonprofit, educational organization maintaining a school for the performing arts and a performing ballet company for the benefit of the entire South Plains area.