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**LUMINARIO BALLET COMPANY SOARS TO NEW HEIGHTS
WITH 'TAKING FLIGHT'**

***Spectacular Dancers & Daring Aerialists Thrill Summer
Audiences at the Ford Theater August 6***

Los Angeles, CA--The Luminario Ballet of Los Angeles dancers will wow the audience at the beautiful outdoor Ford Amphitheatre on Friday, August 6 with an amazing blend of dazzling choreography perfect for all audiences. *Luminario*, a classical/contemporary ballet company, energizes their audiences with captivating choreography, vibrant music from Zeppelin to Shostokovich, cutting edge top notch technique and a fusion of thrilling aerial dance that leaves dance critics mesmerized and the audience awestruck. Hollywood's Ford Amphitheatre is the perfect backdrop for the Luminario dancers, premiere choreographed pieces and internationally known tenor and opera singer Carlos De Antonis.

The Ford Amphitheatre performance repertory is diverse as well as robust with seven pieces premiering from various industry talents, including: Alexandre Magno, guest choreographer from the hit show, "So You Think You Can Dance", Stefan Wenta, Jamal Story, Josie Walsh, Judith Flex Helle's "LedZAerial," San Francisco Ballet's Michael Smuin, and Los Angeles Modern Dance Legend Bella Lewitzky. In his original piece for the Ford Luminario performance, Magno has included his first aerial work in collaboration with Cirque du Soleil aerialist Bianca Sapetto, California Entertainer of the Year Alex Stabler, and Judith FLEX Helle. Magno's choreographic style synergizes popular dance with classic ballet movements, and is a bridge from the commercial world of music video and pop choreography.

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His numerous pop vehicles include Madonna's Drowned World Tour and her Girly Show Tour, Mariah Carey's show in Egypt, as well as pieces for Ballet Hispanico in NYC and Oslo Dance Ensemble in Norway. His luscious fluid movements are an organic blend of modern/ jazz/ballet and are a highlight in the popular *So You Think You Can Dance* and *Dancing with the Stars* series.

Polish-born Stefan Wenta is a legendary ballet maestro and pedagogue. He has created a homage ballet about Chopin in honor of Chopin's 200th Birthday celebration worldwide. This piece dramatically describes Chopin's life, countrymen, friends, war and survival of the arts and humanity in Poland during its darkest days.

The Michael Smuin Trust has given Luminario permission to perform his lovely duet, "Bouquet," originally choreographed in 1981 for San Francisco Ballet's prima ballerina Evelyn Cisneros-Legate. Bella Lewitzky's TURF was choreographed in 1991 in response to the LA Riots. It is about protecting one's property, as well as cooperation and battle. This piece has never been performed by any other company but Lewitzky's until Luminario Ballet, and has not been seen since 1993. John Pennington, Bella's renowned principal dancer for decades and Lewitzky Trust member, is doing the staging.

Finally, excerpts from "LedZAerial" will be presented. LedZAerial is a full evening aerial show performed to the music of Led Zeppelin, conceived and created by Judith FLEX Helle in 2003. The first half premiered at the Sunset Blvd Key Club and, at the second half showing in 2006, Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page and Led Zeppelin vocalist Robert Plant attended, after meeting with Judith FLEX Helle in London, the only meeting with an outside artist in 35 years of rock reign!

The LedZAerial original cast and creators include performers: Judith FLEX Helle, Bianca Sapetto, Drea Weber, Russ Stark, Sebastien Stella, Paris Wages, Tim LaViano, Patrick McGuire. Musicians: Robin Finck (NIN, Guns N Roses), Tim Alexander (Primus), Paz and Ana Lenchantin (A Perfect Circle), Jeffrey Brown (Blue Man Group), and Martin St Pierre (Cirque du Soleil, composer).

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Luminario Ballet, which began in 2008, has had great success and continues to grow as a new and exciting contemporary ballet company. Judith FLEX-Helle, Luminario Ballet's managing director says, "LA is a huge city and although we have excellent institutions for visual art, music, and theater, we have been, for decades, woefully under-represented in concert dance of a national and international caliber. Luminario Ballet aims to represent LA and SoCal nationally and internationally, presenting the best of Californian choreographers as well as international choreographers such as Alexandre Magno and Stefan Wenta." FLEX-Helle continues, "What makes Luminario Ballet unique as a company is the highly professional and facile inclusion of aerial dance, via my LedZAerial, an aerial ballet en pointe and in the air to the music of Led Zeppelin. It's Cirque du Soleil combined with the Olympics combined with ballet!"

Argentinean tenor Carlos De Antonis will compliment the all-star choreography. Carlos is currently working with a pop star in Puerto Rico on a new album, and has sung at the most famous opera houses in the world, performing the full range of tenor roles in such operas as "Rigoletto," "La Traviata" and "La Boheme."

Come experience the passion of movement... the temperamental emotionalism of Luminario's fine dancers and come away feeling stimulated, enthralled, and wanting to see more of the lyrical, physical and gutsy performances Luminario Ballet provides to its growing fan base.

About Luminario's Dancers

Alex Stabler-Since the age of five, Alex was known by all that knew him as a young Billy Elliot. Alex's love of the spotlight drew him into the dance world, starting in his native Sacramento. All of Alex's hard work finally paid off and in 2010 he was named Mr. California Entertainer of the Year. In July Alex will be going to Washington, DC to compete for the national title.

Melissa Sandvig, *So You Think You Can Dance* Season 5's "naughty ballerina" and star of Sacramento Ballet's Balanchine repertory season,

Stephanie Kim, a Nike representative ballerina.

Ashley Hoffman and **Sadie Black**, previously of LA Ballet.

Sita Acevedo, Special Guest. Sita was a principal dancer of Diavolo and original creator and cast member of Cirque du Soleil's "KA!"

Bianca Sapetto-Five time National Rhythmic Gymnastic Champion, Olympian, and original Cirque du Soleil "Quidam" star.

Tickets for **“Taking Flight with Luminario Ballet”** are \$25 general admission, purchased by July 30, \$30 thereafter; \$12 for full-time students with ID and children 12 and under; and \$100 VIP tickets with reserved preferred seating and a pre- performance dinner and drinks reception. Purchase three or more Ford Theatre events and pay only \$20.

For General Admission and VIP tickets, log on to www.FordTheatres.org or call the Ford Box Office at (323) 461-3673. For group tickets sales call (323) 769-2147; additional information and sponsorship opportunities call (310) 440-0143.

EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE: CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT:

Luminario Ballet of Los Angeles Presents ‘Taking Flight’

DATE:

Friday, August 6, 8:30 PM

LOCATION:

Ford Amphitheatre
2580 Cahuenga Blvd., East
Hollywood, CA 90068

TICKET PRICES:

\$25 general admission, purchased by July 30, \$30 thereafter; \$12 for full-time students with ID and children 12 and under; and \$100 VIP tickets with reserved preferred seating and a pre- performance dinner and drinks reception. Purchase three or more Ford Theatre events and pay only \$20.

INFORMATION & TICKETS:

(323) 461-3673, <http://www.luminarioballet.org/> or www.FordTheatres.org

ABOUT THE FORD AMPHITHEATRE

The Ford Amphitheatre is located at 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068, just off the 101 Hollywood Freeway across from the Hollywood Bowl and south of Universal Studios. The grounds open two hours before showtime for picnicking. The Ford offers a number of dining options: a variety of food and beverages is available on site and box dinners for evening events may be ordered in advance. Patrons are welcome to bring their own food and drink.

The Ford is disabled accessible. Portable wireless listening devices are available upon request.

On-site, stacked parking costs \$5 per vehicle for evening shows and \$1 per vehicle for morning family shows. For evening shows only, **FREE non-stacked parking serviced by a FREE shuttle to the Ford, for evening amphitheatre performances only**, is available at the Universal City Metro Station lot at Lankershim Blvd. and Campo de Cahuenga. The shuttle, which cycles every 15-20 minutes, stops in the "kiss and ride" area.

This event is part of the Ford Amphitheatre 2010 Season, a multi-disciplinary arts series produced by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission in cooperation with Los Angeles County-based arts organizations. For a complete season schedule, directions to the theater and parking information, log on to www.FordTheatres.org.

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