



*Educating, Elevating, and Enriching  
St. Louis through the Magic of Dance!*

# ALEXANDRA BALLET TO PERFORM AT REGIONAL DANCE AMERICA MID-STATES FESTIVAL

April 11, 2016 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alexandra Ballet will be one of fourteen companies participating in the Regional Dance America (RDA) Mid-States Festival April 28-May 1st in Skokie, Illinois. This three day festival, which will represent the best of dance in the Mid-States region, will provide hundreds of dancers a unique opportunity to learn from, perform for, and interact with some of the brightest leaders in the dance world today.

Each day will consist of intense ballet training with nationally renowned instructors during the day and performances by the participating companies each night. The dancers will have the opportunity to take classes from Giselle Deya, Vladimir Djouloukhadze and Mauro Villanueva, to name a few.

Gary Taylor, Artistic Director and Resident Choreographer for the High Point Ballet and Taylor Dance, N.C., adjudicated the works by the fourteen companies in the region prior to festival. He critiqued each piece and determined which ones would be performed in the nightly performances. Alexandra Ballet's *InSight*, *Linear Regression*, and *Diana and Actaeon* were chosen to be performed.

*InSight* was selected to be performed by our Apprentice Company on the opening night of the Festival. Choreographed by Alexandra Ballet alum, Jennifer Deckert, *InSight* explores the depth and beauty of meditation—finding stillness within nature and within our racing minds. This contemporary work allows us to enter this world through waves of movement and grace.

*Linear Regression* will be performed on Friday evening. The piece explores strength, defiance and ultimately union. Andrè Megerdichian, Assistant Professor of Dance at the University of Cincinnati's Conservatory of Music, created this work for Alexandra Ballet's First Company dancers.

*Diana and Actaeon* was chosen to open the Gala Performance on Saturday night. The work depicts the Goddess of the Hunt taken from Greek Mythology and is seldom performed in the United States. The ballet was staged by long-time Alexandra Ballet colleague, Marek Cholewa, Professor of Dance at Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Regional Dance America's mission is to advance and foster the growth and education of dancers, choreographers, directors and dance companies in every community across the United States and Canada. RDA provides a national identity and support for its five regional associations; MidStates, Northeast, Pacific, Southeast and Southwest. Development of member companies is further promoted through regional and national festivals by affirming standards of appraisal, evaluation and performance to which all members are held.



*Linear Regression, 2016*

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