

History

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From its inception, the Central Florida Ballet has been leading arts innovator in the community: being the first organization to use pyrotechnics in "The Nutcracker", the first to create a dance performance tribute to the lives lost and the heroes of the World Trade Center attack on September 11, 2001, and presenting the first ballet competition (World Ballet Competition) to be entirely broadcast live on the internet and using a computerized scoring system similar to the Olympics. As Central Florida Ballet and the Ballet Academy of Central Florida enters their 11th season, the company, academy, and programs continue to offer the best in dance performance, instruction, and opportunities to Central Florida residents and to dance lovers world-wide.

2001 - In August of 2001, Central Florida Ballet, a not for profit professional dance company, was formed and the first production, Tutus, Tango, and More, opens to sell-out audiences. This young organization had already proven its potential in one year.- Informances, an outreach program for Orange County school children is introduced. The school-based program combines a short lecture and performance in one. Each year thousands of students in the Central Florida area experience this exciting educational program. - Central Florida Ballet premieres The Nutcracker and its production, performed yearly since, has become the most popular Nutcracker in the area. Under the choreographic expertise of Mr. Petrutiu, the production has received rave reviews, including being mentioned as one of the nation's top Nutcrackers by CNN and USA Today Headlines News.

2003 - During the next three years, the Central Florida Ballet created student companies and grew its professional company with performances throughout its season such as On Centerstage, The Fairy Doll, Peter and the Wolf, Paquita, The Toy Shop, Carnival to Save the Animals and more. - CNN Headline News names CFB's The Nutcracker as “one of the top-five outstanding productions in the nation”. - USA Today features the Central Florida Ballet's production and names it the “pyrotechnic Nutcracker”. 2004 - Vladimir Bykov is named Artistic Director. Under the general direction of Mr. Petrutiu and the artistic direction of Mr. Bykov, Central Florida Ballet and the Ballet Academy of Central Florida continue to excel. New ballets such as The Ugly Duckling and Swan Lake are premiered. 2006- “9/11 An American Moment”, an original production of the Central Florida Ballet is premiered, and receives recognition from the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. as “the only company in the nation to have choreographed a ballet based on this fateful day.” 2007- The Nutcracker is named “One of the Top 20 Events in the southeast region” by the Southeast Tourism Society. - In the summer of 2007, Vasile Petrutiu founded the World Ballet Competition (WBC). - The United Arts of Central Florida presents the Central Florida Ballet with the Excellence in Arts award for the inaugural World Ballet Competition. 2011- The Central Florida Ballet partners with Northland, A Church Distributed to present a free 10th Anniversary Benefit performance of CFB's original production “9/11 An American Moment” to honor the victims and heroes of September 11, 2001. - The World Ballet Competition having just completed its fifth year in June of 2011 is one of the world's top ballet competitions and places a strong emphasis on the professional dancer. The vision and mission of WBC is to be the most objective and fair competition in the world and to attract the highest level of talent that exists. This has been well documented in Dancer Magazine and Dance for You Magazine (based in Europe). In 2008, the WBC became the first ballet competition to be entirely broadcast on the internet and the first to use a computerized scoring system similar to the Olympics. The competition is an exhausting and thorough test of any competitor. Each year hundreds of competitors apply to be accepted into the competition, from which less than 65% are accepted into the competition. Those that are accepted pass through three elimination rounds and, as a result, even to reach the final round is an accomplishment in itself, and representative of being part of an elite group of dancers. Over 700,000 online viewer minutes were generated during the WBC 2011 where competitors received cash prizes, dancewear scholarships to leading dance schools, and job offers. The World Ballet Competition surpassed 2,500,000 views through the internet and reaches an estimated economical impact of Orlando an \$4.5 million for the Central Florida community; an extraordinary figure in just five week-long WBC events!