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**OREGON BALLET FOUNDATION SPONSORS A TUITION-FREE BOYS
BALLET CLASS**

Boys Class To Be Held At Oregon Ballet Academy On Wednesday Evenings

Eugene, Oregon, January 23, 2008 – In an effort to encourage local male dancers, the Oregon Ballet Foundation has sponsored a tuition-free ballet class for boys. The class is open to boys ages 10-22 who have an interest and a potential aptitude for dance. No experience is necessary, but a certain amount of dedication is required. A trial class will be held at the Oregon Ballet Academy on February 6th & 13th from 6:15 - 7:00pm for boys interested in joining the program.

According to a recent article in the New York Times, being the only boy in a ballet class is still a common occurrence. Though male dancers do make up more than 50 percent of the higher ranks of American Ballet, at the entry level boys are a distinct minority. The Oregon Ballet Foundation would like to change that, and believes that offering a class that is exclusively for boys will give them a sense of camaraderie and support that they may not find in regular co-ed classes.

The class will be taught by Oregon Ballet Academy Director, John Grensback. Grensback was a professional dancer with Houston Ballet (principal), New York City Ballet, and Joffrey Ballet, and is enthusiastic about teaching this class. He hopes his experiences and guidance might serve as a form of inspiration to these young male dancers.

Interested boys can contact the Oregon Ballet Academy for more information or to sign up for the trial class at (541) 338-7800 or info@oregonballetacademy.com.

Oregon Ballet Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization founded in 2006 to promote the education and performance of dance in the Eugene/Springfield Oregon community.

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