

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Beautiful Continuum of Instruction

BELLEVUE, Wa. – August 20 - Emerald Ballet Theatre (EBT) today announced the opening of its new non-profit arts center at 12368 Northup Way in Bellevue. The company's Eastside school features a qualified faculty with diverse backgrounds in classical ballet, modern dance, and rhythmic gymnastics.

An open house Saturday, September 8, will feature free trial classes as well as a chance to meet faculty, learn about EBT programs, and explore the new studio. Fall classes begin September 10. Nutcracker auditions will be held Saturday, September 29. For more detailed information visit them on the web at www.emeraldballet.org.

The school's curriculum traces its roots to two pioneers in twentieth century dance. Agrippina Vaganova and Virginia Tanner created new traditions in their fields of ballet and modern dance. Vaganova crafted the intricate system of teaching that made Russian ballet famous. Tanner developed a dance philosophy for the whole child. This heritage comes together in the teaching partnership of Viktoria Titova and Sarah Jacobsen.

Titova, Emerald Ballet Theatre's founder and artistic director, is a rare combination of world-class performer, dynamic choreographer, and dedicated teacher. Trained by masters of classical Russian technique, Titova toured with the Bolshoi Theatre (Grigorovitch Company), performing solo and ensemble roles on some of the world's most famous stages. She has taken advanced students to Russia and France to study and perform.

Jacobsen, the company's community outreach director, trained with protégés of Tanner at the University of Utah. With her specialty in children's pedagogy, she taught at San Jose State University in the School of Music and Dance. As an artist-in-residence, Jacobsen worked with hundreds of students and teachers. "Children love to create. Clear technique increases their movement vocabulary, confidence, and creativity," she recalls.

"Respecting each other's strengths," Titova explains, "allows us to offer a beautiful continuum of instruction to our students." Traditional ballet technique strengthens the body. Improvising dances and engaging in creative problem solving nurtures the imagination. Dancers also learn that other art forms inspire choreography. Collaboration with artists from other disciplines promotes appreciation of music, literature, and the visual arts.

Emerald Ballet Theatre's Philosophy

Roots of trees extend deep into the earth for stability and nourishment. The continued strength and growth of a tree depends on the quality of its root system. It is the same for dancers. Technical, artistic, and creative training determines the heights a dancer can reach. Wings lift above the ordinary and into a world where challenges are surmountable and exploration is exhilarating. Dancers with strong roots can fly through performance and the creative process with joy and confidence. Their bodies become instruments of the unique song inside each dancing heart.

**There are two lasting bequeaths we can leave our children-
one is Roots and the other is Wings**

