



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Please include in all Calendar listings)

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## Stillson Foundation renews support for ballet tech cincinnati

Cincinnati, OH— The Stillson Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee recently awarded a \$15,000 grant to **ballet tech cincinnati** to support its *Leaping for Literacy* project. This is the third year that the Stillson Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee, has supported the ongoing project. The project unites Early Childhood Success by Six Shared Reading, Healthy Living Choices and Family Literacy initiatives along with the mission to present diverse, innovative productions that have a phenomenal community impact. *Leaping for Literacy* includes an Educational Touring Company that performs in schools, community venues, bookstores and libraries, a Study Guide in English and Spanish that includes a reading list of books that are thematically relevant to the spring production, "Dance it Out" sessions for preschool children and a book giveaway at theater performances. Each year, *Leaping for Literacy* touches hundreds of Cincinnati families.

"*Leaping for Literacy* is a tremendous project that makes a significant impact in the lives of area children," said Heidi B. Jark, vice president and manager of The Foundation Office at Fifth Third Bank. "Hermine Stillson created her foundation specifically for that purpose--to help kids. This is a unique project that combines literacy, healthy choices and enrichment through the arts. It's a privilege for the Stillson Foundation to be involved."

This year's *Leaping for Literacy* production **Myth** will bring the epic, ancient myths from a variety of cultures to life, including Roman, Greek, Norse, Indian, Native American, South American, African, Chinese, and others in a fun, family-friendly show that encourages families to read together. This production will highlight a collaborative group of local choreographers from a variety of dance backgrounds and a diverse cast of dancers of all ages and experience levels from the Greater Cincinnati area. The performances will feature indigenous music and choreography from the wide range of cultures represented in *Myth* and colorful sets and costumes along with a fast-paced story line and short vignettes that will keep the youngest and oldest of our audience members engaged and captivated. "We are delighted that the Stillson Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee gave us such a strong vote of confidence with their continued support of our unique program to promote literacy and the arts for the children of Greater Cincinnati," comments Producing Artistic Director Marvel Gentry Davis.

The performances will be at the Aronoff Center on Friday, April 24, 2009 at 8PM and Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 2PM and 8PM and at Cincinnati Ballet Company's Kaplan Theater on Sunday, May 3, 2009 at 7PM.

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## TICKETS

Tickets are available now \$26; to purchase, call 513.621.ARTS (2787) or go to [www.ballettechcincinnati.org](http://www.ballettechcincinnati.org) or [www.cincinnatiarts.org](http://www.cincinnatiarts.org) . Enjoy the Arts/START, Senior Group and Family FourPack Discounts available. For more information call 513.841.2822

## SPONSORS

The *Leaping for Literacy* project is sponsored by the Stillson Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee. WGUC 90.9 FM and The Cincinnati Herald are Media sponsors for *Myth*. This production is made possible, in part by the support of the Aronoff Center Rental Subsidy Grant of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, the Fine Arts Fund, Ohio Arts Council, Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./US Bank Foundation, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Duke Energy, and The Robert H. Reakirt Foundation, PNC Bank Trustee. Carl Lindner, the State of Ohio and the City of Cincinnati are *Raising the Barre* Capital Campaign Sponsors.

For more information, call **ballet tech cincinnati** at (513)841.2822, email [info@ballettechcincinnati.org](mailto:info@ballettechcincinnati.org) or visit our website at [www.ballettechcincinnati.org](http://www.ballettechcincinnati.org)

## ballet tech cincinnati

The mission of *Scripps-Corbett Award* winner and ONE Award Finalist, **ballet tech cincinnati** is to educate, entertain and inspire by providing diverse and innovative performances that have a phenomenal community impact. Founded in 1997, **ballet tech cincinnati** is a non-profit 501 (C ) (3) organization offering community dance classes and performances in its Kennedy Heights World Headquarters and numerous other venues including the Aronoff Center as a resident company. **ballet tech cincinnati** presents many community performances each year featuring a wide variety of pre-professional and professional dancers, dance styles and music. Last season, we served over 12,000 audience members. We have the most diverse audience of any Cincinnati area presenter, and we are the only company that presents guest companies, an international Gala, and preprofessional dancers as part of our season series. **Dance 2 Community Kids** community outreach program introduces youth from underserved communities to dance and the Aronoff Center expanding the audience for the arts and downtown Cincinnati venues. Over 1300 children have attended ballets in this outreach. **The Leaping for Literacy Project** presents an annual spring production based on beloved children's stories, Touring Company performances in area schools, free outreach performances in area libraries and bookstores, a poster and poetry contest, and a book giveaway to promote family literacy. **ballet tech cincinnati** also collaborates with Cincinnati Ballet Company, Closing the Health Gap and The West End Arts Access Initiative to extend our reach and make dance more accessible for everyone. For more information about **ballet tech cincinnati**, visit [www.ballettechcincinnati.org](http://www.ballettechcincinnati.org)

## The Stillson Foundation

The Stillson Foundation was established by Hermine Stillson in 2002 to improve the lives of Greater Cincinnati youth. Fifth Third Bank serves as sole trustee of the foundation.