Children’s Dance Theatre Presents *Crumb and the Pirates*
Utah’s second oldest and nationally recognized performing arts group, Children’s Dance Theatre, brings to life a short story by Christopher Lee

**SALT LAKE CITY, April 2, 2015** – The University of Utah Tanner Dance Program Children’s Dance Theatre (CDT) will present *Crumb and the Pirates*, on Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25, at the Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre located in Salt Lake City. First performed by the Children’s Dance Theatre in 2001, the company of young dancers is excited to bring this captivating story back to the stage.

CDT will narrate the story of *Crumb and the Pirates*, which was written by CDT alum Christopher Lee. When Crumb’s fishing line accidentally snags on a sunken pirate ship and pulls it up from the depths of the sea, Crumb finds himself face to face with a waterlogged but boisterous bunch of buccaneers who decide to follow him home. Now Crumb must solve an unusual conundrum: how do you get rid of a greedy gang of pirates who have overstayed their welcome? Little does he know that the answer to a much larger mystery has just surfaced and is about to change his world forever.

Each CDT class, from second grade through high school, has selected a part of the story to bring to life through movement and music. Creative choreography, an original score, and exquisite costumes help to create this captivating fairy tale. Tristan Moore, CDT’s resident composer, has written an original musical score to translate the story’s themes into musical elements. Costume designers Wendy Turner, Cynthia Turner, and Nancy Cook have created whimsical, detailed costumes to complement the magical choreography of the show.

Children’s Dance Theatre performances are supported by an appropriation from the Utah State Legislature through the Utah State Office of Education’s Professional Outreach Program to Schools (POPS); Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts and Parks (ZAP) funds; the Utah Arts Council; and other arts organizations and individuals. This support allows school children to experience the Capitol Theatre performance at no cost to themselves or their schools. Children throughout the state are invited to attend school matinee performances on Thursday and Friday, April 23 and 25, 2015.

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Tickets for *Crumb and the Pirates* are available at ArtTix Box Office locations, by calling 801-355-ARTS (2787) toll free 1-888-451-ARTS (2787), or online at www.arttix.org. Ticket prices: Adults: $17.00, $21.00, or $26.00 with a 50% discount for children under 12. For more information about the University of Utah Tanner Dance Program, CDT, or future events please visit www.tannerdance.utah.edu or call 801-581-7374.

**About Children’s Dance Theatre**

Children’s Dance Theatre was established by Virginia Tanner in 1949. Under the direction of Mary Ann Lee since 1979, CDT continues as the performing arm of the University of Utah Tanner Dance Program. CDT was founded on the philosophy that through the discipline of dance, a child develops a positive self-concept, effective and creative problem-solving skills, cooperation, and an appreciation for the uniqueness of the individual and the diversity of his or her community. Ranging in age from 8 to 18, this company of 280 young dancers shares the creative process through lecture demonstrations and professional performances with more than 30,000 Utah residents annually. CDT produces technically excellent dancers, but more importantly, strives to develop “young people who are useful, imaginative, and worthwhile human beings.”

**About Tanner Dance**

Confident that the use of wholesome creative activity allows young people of all ages to develop alert minds, healthy bodies, and strong character, Virginia Tanner established the Tanner Dance Program in 1937. Her founding philosophy has become an enduring legacy of more than seventy-five years. Today, the program complements and extends the University of Utah’s mission of teaching, research and service, serving more than 40,000 students annually on campus and at satellite locations, as well as in elementary schools and community centers throughout Utah. The program moved into its new home in the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts & Education Complex in February 2014. The Tanner Dance Program is celebrating its 78th anniversary this year.

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