Children’s Dance Theatre Presents *Elfwyn’s Saga*
Utah’s second oldest and nationally recognized performing arts group, Children’s Dance Theatre, brings to life a story by David Wisiniewski

**SALT LAKE CITY, March 1, 2017** – The University of Utah Tanner Dance Program Children’s Dance Theatre (CDT) are eager to present *Elfwyn’s Saga*, on Friday and Saturday, March 24 and 25, at the Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre located in Salt Lake City. This company of young dancers is excited to convey this captivating story on the stage for all to experience and enjoy.

Inspired by Viking lore, *Elfwyn’s Saga* presents an enthralling tale of magic, greed, and heroism. During the early settlement of Iceland, a girl named Elfwyn is born blind after a curse is placed on her family. Guided and protected by the mysterious Hidden Folk, she learns to rely on other senses to perceive the world around her. When a rival Viking clan uses a treacherous magic to sow the seeds of discord among her family, Elfwyn's gift of clear perception is all that stands between her community and its self-annihilation. An imaginative musical score and hundreds of dazzling costumes help the young dancers of the Children's Dance Theatre bring this spectacular story to the stage.

CDT students, from second grade through high school, bring parts of the story to life through music and movement. Original choreography is created by the students and their teachers, and the movement is paired with an original score produced by Tristan Moore. Costume designers Wendy Turner, Cynthia Turner and Nancy Cook have created whimsical, detailed pieces to complement the choreography, scenery and lighting of the show. The technical strength of the dancers combined with the originality of the piece make Children's Dance Theatre performances one of the most imaginative and worthwhile productions in Salt Lake City each year.

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 Division of Arts and Museums; 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, March 23 and 24, 2017.

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Tickets for *Elfwyn’s Saga* 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: $18.50-$27.50, Children under 12: 50% discount, University Staff/Faculty: 25% off with valid ID (up to 5 tickets). 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 almost eight decades. Today, the program complements and extends the University of Utah’s mission of teaching, research and service, serving more than 40,000 students and members of the community 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.