For Immediate Release

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Children’s Dance Theatre Presents GWINNA
Utah’s second oldest and nationally recognized performing arts group, Children’s Dance Theatre, brings to life a story by Barbara Helen Berger

Ogden, September 21, 2016 – The University of Utah Tanner Dance Program Children’s Dance Theatre (CDT) are eager to present GWINNA, on Tuesday, October 4 at 7:00 pm, at the Val A. Browning Center for the Performing Arts on the Weber State University Campus. This company of young dancers is excited to convey this captivating story on the stage for all to experience and enjoy.

GWINNA, based on Barbara Helen Berger’s enchanting book and brought into motion by the young artists of the University of Utah Children’s Dance Theatre, tells the story of a girl who grows up never knowing that she can fly. Gwinna only knows that she can hear a mysterious song in the wind that fills her with longing. On her twelfth birthday, she is summoned to the home of the ancient Mother of the Owls. There, Gwinna discovers at last how to use her wings, and she sets off on a quest in search of the secret of the music of the wind.

CDT cstudents, from second grade through high school, have selected parts 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 pieces to complement the magical choreography of the show.

GWINNA will be preceded by a short performance from Tanner Dance Ogden satellite students grades K-7. The University of Utah Tanner Dance Program offers creative dance classes at various satellite locations throughout the state, including at the Eccles Community Art Center in Ogden.

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); the Utah Arts Council; the Lawrence T. Dee and Janet T. Dee Foundation; and other organizations and individuals. This support allows school children to experience the performance at no cost to themselves or their schools. Elementary school students in the Ogden, Weber, Morgan, Davis, and Box Elder school districts are invited to attend school matinee performances that day at 10:00 am and 12:30 pm and bus funding is available.

Tickets for GWINNA are available through Weber State Tickets online at www.weberstatetickets.org. Ticket prices: Adults: $15; Children/Students/Seniors: $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 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 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.