



For Immediate Release
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**Dancing on the Edge:
Art That Moves You!**

Bel Air, Maryland—The Harford Ballet Company, northern Maryland's first and only professional ballet company, is preparing for its most electrifying performance series yet! This must see event will display the drama, athleticism, and beauty of the Harford Ballet dancers while providing top quality entertainment for audience members of all ages. Enchanting, exciting, and edgy world premiere works will open the event to be followed by the classical favorite *Sleeping Beauty*.

The commanding performance will open with a Modern dance newly commissioned by the Harford Ballet Company. This work, entitled *Inevitable Path*, is choreographed by Baltimore native Katherine Richardson, founder and Co-Director of KerPlunk Dance Company in New York City. Richardson's piece will bring a "big city" feel to the Harford community and provide a new, contemporary dance style unlike anything else seen in the Maryland area!

"The simple movement and idea of interpretation is what I like most about *Inevitable Paths*," responds HBC professional, Heather Brooke Malone, a former dancer for Nashville Ballet II and North Carolina Dance Theater. "It pushes us as dancers to test and go beyond our personal limits. This piece will take HBC into a new realm by showing that we are a strong company rivaling other professional art organizations in the area."

While HBC is excited to present a new dance form, they are also showing their trademark ballet technique with a neo-classical work, *An Overture*, created by Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet faculty member and former Miami City Ballet dancer, Bruce Thornton. The gorgeous lines and patterns of the ballet combine with intricate pas de deux work to show the best of the HBC dancers. "This piece shows off how far the Harford Ballet Company has come with an accomplished cast that performs professional level partnering work.," says HBC Artistic Director, Barclay Pease. The familiar music composed by *Handel* will help draw audience members into the art of classical ballet with this technically demanding yet breathtakingly graceful new work.

Perhaps the most athletic and contemporary piece ever seen from the Harford Ballet Company will be Resident Choreographer Shana O'Brien's new work, *Territory*. Choreographed to songs from popular rock artists including *Cake* and *Nine Inch Nails*, this piece will challenge the audience's concept of ballet as an art form. Powerful jumps, punctuated movements, and an urban street theme stretch the talents of HBC dancers and bring ballet into the 21st century. Shana O'Brien combined dance elements from hip hop, jazz, and street styles to mix with the classical training of the eight selected dancers for a piece sure to give audience members a new outlook on ballet.

Headlining the second half of the program, Harford Ballet Company, joined by students from the Dance Conservatory of Maryland, will present the beloved fairytale classic, *Sleeping Beauty*. This popular storybook ballet will be a delight to young audience members and families as they are introduced to the enchanted world of a beautiful princess, magical fairies, and a story of true love. Sarah Walborn from Washington Ballet's Studio Company will present an awe-inspiring Princess Aurora together with her handsome Prince Desire, portrayed by Edward Urwin of Louisville Ballet. Performing alongside the guest artists will be HBC's professional company members and advanced pre-professional students providing the most extraordinary theater performance in northern Maryland. Guests will be amazed by the stunning technical clarity and dramatic artistry presented by the ballerinas while young children will be wrapped up in the beloved story as it comes to life before their eyes! Harford Ballet Company's spring production will energize patrons with art that is sure to move you!

This program is being assisted by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Harford County Cultural Arts Board with a sponsorship by Comcast

Harford Ballet Company Presents: *Sleeping Beauty*

Saturday, June 5th at 6:00pm

Sunday, June 6th at 1:00pm

Patterson Mill High School in Bel Air

Tickets: \$17- \$23 in advance; \$25 at the door of the event. Tickets may be purchased at www.harfordballetcompany.org. Please call 410- 877- 0777 for more information.