

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **March 7, 2018**

Mid-Columbia Ballet presents ***The Jungle Book & more***. Presenting the story ballet *The Jungle Book* and an act of contemporary ballets featuring Chiawana High School's **Mariachi Halcón del Río**.

Richland High School Auditorium  
March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
March 17<sup>th</sup> at 1pm

### TICKETS:

Adults \$21

Seniors/Students/Children \$11

Purchase online at [www.MidColumbiaBallet.org](http://www.MidColumbiaBallet.org) or call 509-946-5417

Media Contact: Renée Adams, Director of Programs and Outreach for Mid-Columbia Ballet for more information. [reeneadams@MidColumbiaBallet.org](mailto:reeneadams@MidColumbiaBallet.org), 509-946-5417 (office)

## What's NEW?

**Emerging Choreographer:** Act 1 features emerging choreographer, Willow Whitney. A senior at Richland High and long-time member of MCB's company, Willow will present her first ever choreographic work, *Midnight Thoughts*, which features six dancers and reflects on the stages of thought the mind passes through in the moments before falling asleep.

**MCB Alum:** MCB alum, Phillip Strom, will choreograph his fourth piece for the company. Phillip is currently a senior at NYU Tisch. His work for 12 dancers, *Beacon*, is a representation of reflections, echoes, and physical boundaries set to music composed by Philip Glass.

**Old becomes New:** *La Volanta* is revived from MCB's extensive repertoire of ballets specially for this concert. Choreographed by MCB's Artistic Director, Debra Pearse Rogo, this piece showcases the 21 dancers of the company and apprentice company.

**Collaboration:** This concert is the first in MCB history to feature a collaboration with Mariachi Halcón del Río, the flagship music ensemble of Chiawana High School (Pasco), and this is also MCB's newest

choreographic commission by Rex Wheeler. The score is compiled by Mariachi director Allen Madsen and will support a choreographic narrative that celebrates the female spirit through themes of beauty, playfulness, humility, and strength. Guided by the musical structure of Mariachi, Wheeler will stay true to the vocabulary of neo-classical/contemporary ballet while creating a work that is guided by the musical structure of Mariachi. Additionally, MCB will sponsor the collaboration which will be performed at the Regional Dance America/Pacific (RDA/P) festival held April 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 in Spokane, Washington.

**Spectacular Design:** *The Jungle Book* story ballet offers something for all ages; a timeless story, beautiful choreography, and stunning character design. Greg Elder (Seattle, WA) returns to Tri-Cities Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> with Heather and Jeannie Wood-Elder to complete each character with intricate paint & design. A sensory friendly performance of *The Jungle Book* is open for registration on Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 4pm, with registration at: [http://midcolumbiaballet.org/jb\\_sensory\\_performance.html](http://midcolumbiaballet.org/jb_sensory_performance.html)

#### About the Artists

Mariachi Halcón del Río: <https://www.facebook.com/mariachihalcondelrio/>  
Rex Wheeler: <http://www.rexswheeler.com/>  
Greg Elder: <http://gregelderdesigns.com/>

#### Images:

[http://www.midcolumbiaballet.org/press/press\\_images\\_030718.html](http://www.midcolumbiaballet.org/press/press_images_030718.html)

#### About the Company

MCB is nationally recognized for its high honors as Southeastern Washington's premier performing dance company, with an annual season of three productions that represent a diverse repertoire spanning from classical ballet to cutting edge contemporary dance. A suite of seven programs constitute MCB's educational outreach endeavors which focus on equity in dance experiences for K-12 students and the accessibility of dance to the elderly and to those with special needs.

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ballet  
*Debra Pearse Rogo, Artistic Director*

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