

## ABOUT MIDWEST BALLET THEATRE

Midwest Ballet Theatre was originally founded as the Lincoln Center Ballet Company in 1984 under the auspices of the Downers Grove Park District. Directed by Mim Eichmann, the original company was comprised of five dancers who presented small, varied works for civic groups, nursing homes and short concerts. Within a few years, talented young students trained in Eichmann's ballet classes began entering the Company. The Company developed a consistently high standard of excellence in technique, interpretation and expression, as well as the dancers' individual personal growth. In 1993, the name of the Company was changed to Midwest Ballet Theatre and a not-for-profit corporation was formed.



Comprised of advanced dancers who rehearse at the Midwest Ballet Academy, Midwest Ballet Theatre performs before enthusiastic audiences in Chicago's western suburbs at the historic 1,000-seat Tivoli Theatre in downtown Downers Grove.

Each year, MBT presents its' highly-acclaimed production of "The Nutcracker", featuring guest artists from American Ballet Theatre and the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago. Additionally, MBT brings to the public one of four original full-length story ballets as part of the Downers Grove Heritage Festival in June, as well as an annual spring performance season.



Full-length works choreographed by Eichmann are: "Alice in Wonderland" (Saint-Saens/Kabalevsky); "Ayne Mairead" (Irish); "Cinderella" (Shostakovich); "Coppelia" (Delibes); "The Fantastic Toyshop" (Rossini); "The Mirror" (Lofstrom); "The Nutcracker" (Tchaikovsky); "Peter Pan" (Bizet); "Petite Suite" (arr. Lofstrom); "Sarah's Quilt" (Finzi/Larsson); "The Woodcarver's Daughter" (Lofstrom). Shorter works include: "A Little of This ... A Little of That" (Dapogny); "Aurora Borealis" (Stravinsky); "Pas Classique" (Albinoni/Bach); "Pastiche" (Waldteufel); "Peaches 'n Cream" (Sousa); "Peasant Pas de Deux" (Meyerbeer); "Song of the Wood" (Song of the Wood); "Three Sisters and a Suitor" (Barber); "Transonic Circuit" (2K); "Vertical Velocity" (Widor/Lofstrom)

## ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Originally from Washington, D.C. Mim Eichmann received her B.F.A. in ballet performance and education in 1973 from Butler University (Jordan College of Music), Indianapolis, IN. While at Butler, Ms. Eichmann toured with the Butler Ballet professional companies, directed by the late George Verdak. She performed professionally as well with Verdak's summer ballet companies and with his original Indianapolis Ballet Theatre. Ms. Eichmann was on staff at the University of Notre Dame/St. Mary's College as a dance lecturer before moving to the Chicago area.

After teaching ballet at the Downers Grove Park District for 10 years, she opened the Midwest Ballet Academy, located at 5013 Fairview Ave., Downers Grove, in September 1993.



## MIDWEST BALLET THEATRE, Inc.

Artistic Director: Mim Eichmann  
President: Cindy Gates  
Vice President Operations: Gary Franzen  
Vice President Grants: Jerry Fox  
Secretary: Jan May  
Treasurer: Jeff May

Midwest Ballet Theatre is an Illinois Not For Profit Corporation, which is a tax-exempt charitable organization under section 501(C)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to Midwest Ballet Theatre are tax-deductible charitable contributions. In addition to private donations, MBT has received grants or sponsorships from the following organizations:

The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency  
The Downers Grove Community Grants Committee  
The Hinsdale Center for the Arts  
Tivoli Enterprises  
Merrill Lynch, Inc.



### MISSION STATEMENT

Midwest Ballet Theatre, a not-for-profit corporation, is a pre-professional ballet company dedicated to excellence in the performance of classical ballet. The Company seeks to develop in its members poise, strength, and a sense of dedication and discipline in a mutually supportive, non-competitive environment. MBT endeavors to promote an awareness of, and an appreciation for, the art of classical ballet throughout the community.



**Artistic Director:  
Mim Eichmann**



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