

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Montgomery Ballet prepares to launch its 2008/2009 Performing Season with the 33rd Annual Performance on the Green, July 18 & 19 at Blount Cultural Park and the 2008 Summer Ballet Intensive Seminar

Montgomery, AL -- The Montgomery Ballet is preparing to launch its exciting 2008/2009 season with the 33rd Annual **Performance on the Green**, on Friday & Saturday, July 18 & 19, 2008 at 8:00pm at the Blount Cultural Park. Sponsored annually by **Regions Bank**, **Performance on the Green** is attended by thousands each year, this free outdoor performance has been named a Top 20 Event by the Southeast Tourism Society, and is one of Montgomery's cultural highlights of the summer. This event is perfect for families, offering ballet at its finest in an outdoor, informal setting. The public is welcome to bring blankets and chairs and enjoy picnicking in the park prior to the performance. This performance will mark the beginning of a thrilling and extensive performing season throughout the Capital City and the State of Alabama.

Under the direction of Elie Lazar, Artistic Director, the Montgomery Ballet will present a varied collection of dances at both nights. On Friday, July 18th, the Company will perform **Verdi Pas de Six**, **Fedora Pas de Deux**, and **Masa**, an original ballet choreographed by Mr. Lazar and set to Armenian music. The program for Friday evening will feature the **World Premiere** of **Intimate Duets**, choreographed by Mr. Lazar to live music by bass guitarist Ryan McNeal. On Saturday, July 19th, The Montgomery Ballet will present a different collection of dances, featuring the participants of the 2008 Summer Intensive, which will include scenes from **La Fille Mal Gardée**, **Shades** from **La Bayadère**, and a duet performed by a guesting couple from the Arova Ballet. Concluding the program will be the presentation of **How Far is 2 Far**, a contemporary ballet by Elie Lazar, performed by the Montgomery Ballet Company. This ballet has toured many locations in the Montgomery Area and will tour throughout the State of Alabama this fall.

Prior to the Friday evening performance, at 6:30pm, will be the annual **Picnic on the Green**, an elegant, gourmet catered supper attended by hundreds each year, benefitting the Montgomery Ballet Company and School. Your reservation to the picnic will include a gourmet supper, wine and reserved seating for the performance. Reservations for the picnic are required and can be purchased by calling the Montgomery Ballet Office at 334/409-0522.

The 2008 Montgomery Ballet School Summer Intensive Seminar is being held June 23 - July 18, 2008 at the Montgomery Ballet Studio at 6009 East Shirley Lane in Montgomery. The Summer Intensive Seminar focuses on ballet, and also offers a wide variety of classes in other dance forms, including Jazz, Modern, Character, Men's Class, Variations and Partnering. The Seminar is designed for those who desire the best training available, and who are up for the challenge of a rigorous and fulfilling program. Mr. Lazar has held auditions throughout the country auditioning dancers who wish to be a part of this rigorous 4 week educational experience. Students will be traveling from as far away as Israel to attend the seminar and perform in Montgomery at the 33rd Annual **Performance on the Green** on July 19, 2008.

For information about the Montgomery Ballet's Subscription Season and Performances, the Summer Intensive Seminar, or the Montgomery Ballet Professional Company & School, please call (334) 409-0522 or visit online at www.montgomeryballet.org

Performance on the Green is sponsored annually by

