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City Youth Ballet set for 'Best of Ballet'

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MILLIGAN COLLEGE — From the grace of “Swan Lake” to the vibrancy of the Spanish ballet, “Paquita,” the City Youth Ballet’s “Best of Ballet” will bring a wide mix of classical ballet to stage at Milligan College’s Gregory Center on April 30-May 1.

Performances are set for 7:30 p.m. April 30 and 2 p.m. May 1 and will showcase parts some of the world’s best-loved ballet stories.

Most of the pieces center on such classical ballets as “Sleeping Beauty,” “Carmen,” “Firebird” and “Romeo and Juliet.” But CYB’s senior dancers also will perform pieces such as “Cry” by modern dance great Alvin Ailey, and the fast-paced “Rodeo,” a contemporary piece choreographed by the late Reece Toohey, a founder in 1928 of a dance school that was a forerunner to the City Youth Ballet.

“This show captures the strengths of the City Youth Ballet in that we can put on stage a

variety of ballet styles,” said Susan Pace-White, CYB’s artistic director. “The audience can truly enjoy the power of ballet.”

Costuming in elaborate tutus plus the glorious music of such composers as Pytor Tchaikovsky also highlight the show. The performance, under the direction of Pace-White and associate director Sarah Sims, will raise funds for the City Youth Ballet’s future performances. The CYB, a non-profit organization, provides both ballet education and performances across Northeast Tennessee.

“Best of Ballet” honors the late Wendy Jayne Bailey, a CYB president and long-time volunteer, who died in January from complications of multiple sclerosis.

“We are honored to show gratitude to Wendy whose contributions to the City Youth Ballet made it the leading arts organization that it is,” Pace-White said.

General admission tickets are available at the door. For more information, visit www.cityyouthballet.org or call 434-2195 and leave a message.