

COMMUNITY DANCE PROGRAM BRINGS MAGGIE TO THE STAGE MARCH 2013

-- Maggie Showcases Retelling of Story of Mary Magdalene in Relatable, Modern and Multi-Media Dance Performance that is Free to the Public --

ORLANDO, Fla. – Northwest Dance Studio is bringing a tale of personal redemption to the stage in Maggie -- a fast-paced retelling of the story of Mary Magdalene using contemporary dance, original music and multimedia backdrops.

Put on by Northwest Dance Studio, a community dance studio located off of Clarcona-Ocoee Road in Orlando, Maggie is based loosely on the ancient story of Mary Magdalene, a prostitute who escapes death and destruction to find new life through redemption and forgiveness. The production takes place in a modern setting inspired by the colorful movie "Moulin Rouge."

Throughout Maggie, dancers take the stage set in the seedy surroundings of a modern day brothel. There we meet Maggie, a young woman struggling to find a home. Drawn in by the charming and deceitful ringmaster, Maggie joins the brothel's group of young women and begins the descent into their nightmarish underworld. The production, which includes aerial, modern and ballet dance supported by video scenery and original music written and recorded just for the production, follows Maggie's journey from seemingly finding the answer to her hopes and dreams, to learning how forgiveness and personal redemption can set her free from the past and empower her to receive a new vision of herself and her future.

Performed by Northwest Dance Studio students and company members, many who are in their teens and early twenties from the surrounding Pine Hills community, Maggie played to an audience of more than 1,600 in 2012 at Northwest Church on Easter Sunday. This year the performance dates have been expanded to include free performances on Friday, March 29 and on Easter Sunday, March 31.

"Maggie makes an ancient Bible story real to a modern audience. When developing this show, I picked Mary Magdalene as my inspiration because she is a person that I think most people can relate to -- having something or an addiction they are trying to hide, then feeling trapped in a lifestyle they don't want to be living. She's every person and it makes sense to use dance to relate to her story today," says Sarah Swindell, Northwest Dance Studio Director.

Maggie will be performed at Northwest Church Auditorium, 5495 Clarcona-Ocoee Rd, Orlando, FL 32810 in March 2013. Performances are free to the public at these times:

- Friday, March 29, 7:00 p.m. (Doors 6:30pm)
- Sunday, March 31 (Easter Sunday), 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

For more information, visit nwdanceorlando.com. No reserved seating is required, attendees are seated on a first come, first serve basis. Maggie is recommended for an audience ages 13 and older.

About Northwest Dance Studio

Northwest Dance Studio was founded in 2005 with the adjoining Northwest Church donating the space and financial support to get the studio off the ground. Founder and director Sarah Swindell brings her more than 15 years of professional dance experience to give the studio's students, mostly children and teens, the opportunity to learn multiple forms of dance and perform on a stage – an opportunity many would otherwise miss during childhood.

Beyond teaching technique in the realms of contemporary, ballet, hip hop and aerial dance, the studio's focus is on instilling confidence, integrity and positive self image in its students that they can use in everyday life to achieve their dreams. Northwest Dance Studio also strives to create a safe environment for each dancer, whose ages range from three to 30 plus, providing dance and performance art in the underserved Pine Hills area of Orlando.

A key component of the studio's mission is to not turn away any student -- even those who are not able to afford the price of classes are put on a scholarship program where they can provide support to the studio through helping tasks in exchange for their classes. In addition, in comparison to other dance studios in the region, classes are always offered at low rates with each class costing \$12. Students are never penalized for missing a class, always able to use every class purchased at any time.

"Over the years our little unassuming facility has offered hundreds of children and adults the opportunity to dance, grow and express themselves," said studio director Sarah Swindell. "We have seen children with ADHD and behavior problems improve, and life changing growth in our students of all ages. It's not just about dance, it is about helping our students find a positive self image to help them grow."

Beyond Maggie, Northwest Dance Studio produces a series of seasonal dance performances and a Diary Series, where dancers can utilize artistic movement and expression to share and recover from traumatic moments in their lives.

For more information about Northwest Dance Studio visit www.nwdanceorlando.com/.

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NOTE:

High resolution photography available for download at <http://www.nwdanceorlando.com/northwest-dance-studio/media-photos>

Media Contact:

Julia Stewart
407-310-4694
julia@montgomery-james.com