

***For Immediate Release:***

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**GALA TO CELEBRATE CAREER OF DANIELA BUSON**  
International stars will join Tulsa Ballet for one spectacular evening

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**TULSA, (Okla.)** – March 15, 2006 – Stars of the international dance world will join Tulsa Ballet in honoring Daniela Buson at a gala on April 9, 2006 at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center. The gala entitled *Daniela Buson – Celebrating the Gift of Dance* will feature Buson and reflect on her extraordinary career as a ballerina.

Following Tulsa Ballet’s Sunday, April 9, 3 pm matinee of *Evolution*, a two-hour gala reception will be held prior to the gala performance which is scheduled to begin at 7 pm.

The performance will spotlight Buson and her career. The world-renowned principal dancer of more than two decades will be joined on stage by some of the biggest names in ballet including Frederic Franklin, Bruce Marks, Ivan Nagy and Ben Stevenson. Also featured that evening will be the current artists of Tulsa Ballet joined by Guy Albouy, Marina Antonova, Charles and Rose Marie Flachs, Danil and Stephanie Murrish Gaifullian, Lori Grooters, Alfonso Martin, Serkan Usta and Buson’s husband and Tulsa Ballet Artistic Director, Marcello Angelini.

“The current members of Tulsa Ballet will join in to perform excerpts from your favorite ballets. Great personalities of the dancer world like Mr. Frederic Franklin, Mr. Ivan Nagy, Mr. Bruce Marks, and Mr. Ben Stevenson will also be there. And they will be dancing with me,” said Buson with great excitement. “I think this is the first time ever that those four superstars, who after magnificent careers with companies like the American Ballet Theater, The Royal Ballet, and Les Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, who went on to become the Artistic Directors of companies like the Boston Ballet, the English National Ballet and the Houston Ballet will be together on the same stage.”

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The international artists, many of whom are well-known to Tulsa audiences, will join Buson in presenting excerpts from some of her most popular roles including *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Talisman*, *3 Preludes*, *In a Spin*, *Anna Karenina*, *Lady of the Camelias*, *Melodia* (a world premiere by Ma Cong), *Poeme*, *Three Musketeers*, *Don Quixote*, *The Nutcracker*, *Flower Festival* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

The Tulsa Ballet Company will present excerpts from *Cinderella*, *Lambarena*, *Rassemblement*, *L'Amoroso*, and *Without Words*. The Tulsa Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Tulsa Ballet Music Director, Ramona Pansegrau, will perform for the gala.

“Now is time for me to give back to my audience,” said Buson. “In one single performance I will dance all the favorite roles of the past ten years, one for each year I have been in Tulsa. Accompanying me will be some old friends who will return to the stage for this special occasion as well as former dancers of Tulsa Ballet.”

Tickets for the gala performance range from \$30 to \$80 and are on sale now. Admission to the gala reception is an additional \$30. Patron packages which include the reception, performance and dinner range from \$250 to \$5,000.

“It has been a wonderful experience for me to be able to perform for my friends in Tulsa. I have been fortunate to experience audiences all over the world and yet I never felt the warmth, enthusiasm and connection I felt from the very first time I performed at the PAC to my last performance in *The Nutcracker* this season,” said Buson.

*Daniela Buson – Celebrating the Gift of Dance* will be April 9, 2006. The gala reception will be held from 5 pm to 7 pm in the Westby Pavilion at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center. The gala performance will begin at 7 pm in Chapman Music Hall also at the Tulsa PAC. The gala dinner will be held following the performance at the Crowne Plaza Downtown Tulsa. Patron packages and individual tickets are on sale now only through the Tulsa Ballet ticket office by calling (918) 749-6407.