

# AMERICAN MIDWEST *Ballet*

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From left: Bob Fosse's *Sing, Sing, Sing*; *The Nutcracker*; and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. [More photos...](#)

## FEUDING FAIRIES, TUTUS, TIARAS, AND ALL THAT JAZZ HIGHLIGHT AMERICAN MIDWEST BALLET'S 16TH SEASON

Season subscriptions and single tickets are on sale now for American Midwest Ballet [AMB] in its 16th season of professional dance. Artistic director and CEO Erika Overturff said the 24-member company will open the season **October 18 and 19** at the Hoff Family Arts & Culture Center in Council Bluffs.

The season opener, *Momentum*, is a "mixed repertory" program, Overturff said – a collection of separate, varied works chosen to **showcase the expressive range of ballet**. She gave this summary of the program:

***Sing, Sing, Sing*** – The showstopper of Bob Fosse's award-winning 1978 Broadway musical *Dancin'*, this work evokes a 1930s nightclub where patrons step out to sizzling swing music. Epitomizing the choreographer's distinctive style, *Sing, Sing, Sing* has come to be regarded as a crown jewel of Fosse choreography. Staging it for AMB will be musical-theater star Dylis Croman, a protégé of Fosse muse Ann Reinking and a cast member in the 2023 Broadway revival of *Dancin'*.

***Ruth, Ricordi per Due*** – The final ballet created by Joffrey Ballet co-founder Gerald Arpino, this 2004 work for two dancers is a stirring elegy. From the *Chicago Tribune*: "Simple and pure, it's a poem of profound love and grief."

***Appalachian Song*** – Overturff’s 2017 work explores the heritage of the Appalachian region as told through the music of its people. The ballet weaves together life’s struggles and celebrations through stories of love, humor, heartache, and perseverance.

Next, building on last season’s record-setting attendance, **the family favorite *The Nutcracker*** will return to the stages of the **Hoff Center (November 22 and 23)** and Omaha’s **Orpheum Theater (December 4 – 7.)** **New this season is a Thursday-evening performance at the Orpheum**, added to accommodate public demand, Overturff said. The ballet, she said, is a perennial favorite thanks to its charming story, vivid characters, spectacular sets and costumes, and brilliant classical dancing in the grand 19th century style. In cooperation with Autism Action Partnership, the November 23 show will be a special sensory-friendly version that helps make the *Nutcracker* experience accessible to more families.

Feuding fairies and mismatched lovers will collide when Oskar Antunez’ ballet ***A Midsummer Night’s Dream*** – based on Shakespeare’s most beloved romantic comedy – wraps up the season **April 11 and 12 at the Hoff Center** and **April 18 and 19 at the Orpheum**. “Shakespeare’s story works beautifully as a ballet,” Overturff said. “The atmosphere is so charming that it’s easy to believe there’s magic in the air! I love how Oskar captures the humor in his choreography, which blends seamlessly with Felix Mendelssohn’s enchanting score.”

Tickets for all three productions are on sale now; information is available at <https://amballet.org/tickets/>

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## ABOUT AMERICAN MIDWEST BALLET

*American Midwest Ballet [AMB] is the region’s resident professional dance company, bringing work beyond words to audiences in Nebraska, Iowa, and beyond. Performing at home and on tour, our mission is to inspire people through dance programs of the highest quality: breathtaking performances, enriching education, and uplifting community engagement.*

*AMB’s Season 16 is presented with the generous support of the Holland Foundation, the Iowa West Foundation, and Douglas County, and major supporters the Nebraska Arts Council, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and the Sherwood Foundation.*