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## **Sangre de Cristo Arts Center welcomes new School of Dance Director and Artistic Director of the Sangre de Cristo Ballet Theatre**

(Pueblo, Colo.) The Sangre de Cristo Arts Center introduces Misha Izotov as its new School of Dance Director and Artistic Director of the Sangre de Cristo Ballet Theatre (SBT) beginning April 15.

Izotov, originally from Russia, brings traditional ballet and dance experience from his training at the Ukraine Dance Academy from 1991-2001. In addition, he was also a guest principal dancer for the Dallas Metropolitan Ballet, New World Ballet and Ballet Concerto in Texas, and the National Ballet and Opera Theatre of Donets'k Ukraine among others.

Izotov and his wife Melian are moving to Pueblo from South Carolina. Melian Izotov is familiar with Pueblo, having trained with former director and artistic directors of SBT, Fernando and Karen Schaffenburg. She was also a guest instructor during the School of Dance's annual Summer Intensive Program.

### **About the Sangre de Cristo School of Dance and Sangre de Cristo Ballet Theatre**

The Sangre de Cristo School of Dance offers 83 classes throughout the school year and summer intensive. Nearly 300 students are enrolled in Ballet (including specialized boys' ballet), Jazz, Tap, Dance Exploration, Hip-Hop and adult classes. Advanced students have the opportunity to train in master classes from professional dance companies that are part of the Center Stage Performing Arts Series. Each year, the Sangre de Cristo Ballet Theatre Company produces Nutcracker, the Ballet to sold-out performances.

Admission to the Arts Center is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children and military. Members of the Arts Center receive free admission. Galleries and Buell Children's Museum are open Tuesday-Saturday 11a.m.-4p.m.; closed Mondays. Box office open Monday-Friday, 9a.m.-5p.m. and Saturday, 9a.m.-4p.m. For more information, please call 719-295-7200; stop by the Arts Center located at 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., just off of I-25, exit 98b, or visit online at [www.sangredecristoarts.org](http://www.sangredecristoarts.org).

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