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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alabama Ballet School Classes Begin August 29 & Community Cast Auditions for George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*TM Announced

The Alabama Ballet School, a Royal Academy of Dance registered school, resumes classes this Monday, August 29. The School is honored to begin its fourth year instructing students using the esteemed Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) syllabus provided by the RAD in London. The RAD is an international teaching organization committed to establishing standards of excellence in ballet instruction and is known for taking into consideration the particular level of development of each child within a level.

The faculty of the Alabama Ballet School, which includes many of the company's professional dancers, is required to attend a workshop for the RAD syllabus. This provides the students with training that is both consistent and unified. Classes are offered in ballet, pointe, tap, modern, jazz and partnering.

The Alabama Ballet School strives to serve members of the community who choose to dance as an extra-curricular activity for fun and build healthy bodies as well as those who aspire to a career in dance. Classes in ballet, tap, and Pilates are offered to adults who are looking for fun ways to get healthy and meet new people.

Announcing Community Cast auditions for George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*TM on Thursday, September 15! Children ages 8-16 are invited to audition for the opportunity to perform with the Alabama Ballet, Birmingham's professional ballet company, in this magical community favorite. Community Cast members dance roles including Party Girls and Boys, Baby Mice, Soldiers, Angels, Candy Canes and even the star of the show - Marie!

Children auditioning should wear leotards, tights and ballet slippers. Male dancers may wear shorts, a close fitting white t-shirt and white socks. The audition fee is \$20 per child. For children ages 8-12, please arrive at the Alabama Ballet Center for Dance at 2726 1st Avenue South for registration at 4:00pm. The audition begins at 5:00pm. For ages 13-16, registration begins at 6:30pm with the audition at 7:00pm.

To register for classes or find out more about Community Cast auditions, call Libba Owen at 322-1874, or visit www.alabamaballet.org.

The Alabama Ballet is the state's premiere professional ballet company. The company has achieved national prominence as one of only seven ballet companies in the world permitted by the Balanchine Trust to perform Balanchine's *Nutcracker*TM. The Alabama Ballet promotes the development of classical and contemporary ballet through high quality performance, dance education and community outreach. Education and outreach activities include CityDance, which provides 16 weeks of dance training for youth from the city of Birmingham and Jefferson County. The Alabama Ballet is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

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