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**ILLINOIS YOUTH DANCE THEATRE PRESENTS THE HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN'S "THE LITTLE MERMAID" AT
THE LAKE ZURICH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER MAY 10-11**

Deer Park, IL: Illinois Youth Dance Theatre is pleased to present our 10th annual spring show, "The Little Mermaid," a full length ballet based on the Hans Christian Andersen's story "Den Lille Havfrue" or Little Mermaid. The story revolves around seven sisters that come of age while living in the harmonious Undersea Kingdom under the rule of the Sea King and Queen, Poseidon and Amphitrite and the beautiful Sea Goddess, Nina. The oldest sister, Serena, advises each of her mersisters to travel to the surface to see the sights above water. Chanalli meets a mysterious Prince amidst a backdrop of adventure, wicked spells, greed and unconditional love.

The full length ballet features pre-professional junior and senior company members from the Illinois Youth Dance Theatre, who range in age from 4 to 18, and train at the Center for Ballroom and Dance in Deer Park under the direction of Alyce Keaggy-Brinkmann, Artistic Director. Her credentials include dancing professionally for 13 years with The Milwaukee Ballet as a soloist. "The Nutcracker" features professional guest artists, Ricardo Santos of The Joffery Ballet and Caitlin Sullivan, a former IYDT alumni, currently dancing with the Charleston Ballet of Charleston, SC.

"The Little Mermaid" will be performed Friday, May 10th at 7:00PM, Saturday, May 11th at 1:00 and 5:00PM at the Lake Zurich Performing Arts Center at 300 Church Street in Lake Zurich, IL 60047. Tickets range from \$10 to \$25 and can be purchased by visiting <http://www.ballroomanddance.com/iydt-productions.html>

Illinois Youth Dance Theatre was founded in 1999 by Alyce Keaggy-Brinkmann, and operates as a not-for-profit organization committed to classic and contemporary ballet repertoire. IYDT promotes community outreach and cultivates interest and education in performing arts, as well as enriching the personal best in each dancer. Illinois Youth Dance Theatre is funded by members and private donations. All donations are tax deductible via 501(c) (3).

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