FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ballet On Wheels showcases young talent as its production of *The Wiz* takes the stage

MEMPHIS, TN - Come on and ease on down the road when *The Wiz*, produced by Ballet On Wheels Dance School & Company, takes the stage on June 2nd and 3rd at Hutchison School, located at 1740 Ridgeway Road.

The June 2nd performance will be at 7 p.m. and the June 3rd performance will be at 3 p.m. Each performance runs about 80 minutes.

A dress rehearsal will take place on May 10th, when BOW will be performing *The Wiz* to school-aged children at The Cannon Center for the Performing Arts. Performances are at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. The earlier performance is already sold-out.

The Wiz is an urbanized retelling of L. Frank Baum's children's novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.* The musical was first featured on Broadway in 1975, showcasing an entirely African-American cast. It went on to win seven Tony awards, including one for Best Musical.

The local cast of nearly 100 children comes primarily from Ballet On Wheels Dance School & Company. Open auditions were held earlier this year for dancers within the community.

"This production really incorporates all things dance," Chauniece Conner, founder of BOW says. "The show features jazz, modern, classical ballet and hip hop production numbers - something for everyone."

Tickets for the show are \$20. All ages are welcome. To purchase tickets, call 901-870-4248 or go to www.balletonwheels.org.

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Celebrating its 10th year, Ballet on Wheels is Memphis' only community based, nonprofit classical ballet school and youth dance company. Students who attend BOW receive progressive instruction in the art form and theory of classical ballet, modern, pointe and jazz dance genres.

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