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Press Release

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WORLD PREMIERE OF 'VINCENT VAN GOGH'

SATURDAY, MAY 2ND AND SUNDAY, MAY 3RD

MARCH 12, 2015 (DENVER, COLORADO): Ballet Ariel's world premiere of 'Vincent Van Gogh' opens on Saturday, May 2nd at 7:30 pm and Sunday, May 3rd at 2:00 pm at the Lakewood Cultural Center. This beautiful ballet explores the dramatic turmoil and tragedy that marked the career of the genius artist Vincent Van Gogh. His unfulfilled love life and passionate follies are danced in a series of emotional duets. The tender and supportive relationship with his brother Theo is thoughtfully portrayed in the ballet. The tension in the ballet builds as his explosive relationship with Paul Gauguin while living together in Arles, leads to his first episode of madness and self-mutilation. The ballet is choreographed by Ballet Ariel's Director Ilena Norton to beautiful, original music by Israeli composer Irena Scalerica. Also on the program are excerpts from the gorgeous wedding scene in Act 3 of the classical ballet 'Raymonda', and the exciting, contemporary latin dance 'Incantacion' by former Colorado Ballet principal Gregory Gonzales. Ticket prices for the performance start at \$20. Tickets can be purchased at www.Lakewood.org/Tickets, 303-987-7845 or at the Lakewood Cultural Center Box Office, 470 S. Allison Parkway.

Irena Scalerica is a graduate of the Saint-Petersburg Conservatory and has won awards in the John Lennon international composer competition in 2001 and 2003. She has composed music for Vladimir Alenikov's film the Princess War in 2013, which won 12 international film awards, and for Nariman Turebaev's film Adventure in 2014. She has written music for three ballets, Van Gogh, Silver Goose, and Kamar Batyr. Her ballets combine classical and contemporary styles to create a complex and emotional expression of the story. This is the first time her ballet Van Gogh has been choreographed and presented by a ballet company.

ABOUT BALLET ARIEL

Founded in 1998 by Artistic and Executive Director Ilena Norton, this is Ballet Ariel's 16th season. Ballet Ariel's is building excitement about ballet, presenting original ballets that combine classical tradition and images of contemporary culture, while providing dance education and fostering appreciation of the art of ballet. The company employs 12 professional dancers, and its repertoire

includes classical works and original ballets, including *Cinderella*, *Avoca-A Tale of Molly Brown*, and *The Birth of Rock and Roll*.

Ballet Ariel performs its season concerts at the Lakewood Cultural Center and the Cleo Parker Robinson Theatre in Denver. They have also performed in the Arvada Center for the Arts SummerFest Series, in the Lone Tree Passport to Culture Series, as an artistic partner at the PACE Center, in the Denver Ballet Guild Showcase, at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts, in the Mile High Dance Festival in Denver, and on tour in Casper, Wyoming, Durango, Colorado and at the Tabor Opera House in Leadville. The Ballet Ariel School offers pre-professional training at our beautiful new studio on 7808 E. Cherry Creek South Drive, Suite 209 in Denver. Ballet Ariel receives funding from Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, and Arapahoe Counties SCFD and Denver Ballet Guild. For more information, visit WWW.BALLETARIEL.ORG or call (303) 945-4388.