

NORTHWEST FLORIDA



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For Immediate Release

NORTHWEST FLORIDA BALLET PRESENTS

CORBIAN THE DINOSAUR

A glow in the dark adventure like you've never seen before

Fort Walton Beach, FL (September 13, 2011)- On Friday, September 30th at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center the lights will dim and the adventure will begin as the Northwest Florida Ballet (NFB) presents ***Corbian the Dinosaur***, a tale about a world of glow-in-the-dark creatures and one dinosaur's magical transformation. The performance begins at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under, and are available online at nfballet.org or by calling NFB at (850) 664-7787. The performance is sponsored by AJ's Seafood and Oyster Bar and Bit-Wizards.

Corbian the Dinosaur features crayon-like creatures that light up the stage in a heart-rending tale of scientist Professor Henslow and his creation, Corbian the dinosaur. Corbian sets out on an adventure to explore the world beyond his home and along the way he encounters many different creatures – Verla, the gangly ostrich; Peche, the beautiful fish; and Brutus, the menacing red dinosaur to name a few. From each experience he learns something new about the world around him.

Truly unique and visually dazzling, the show has been universally praised for its cutting edge blend of puppetry, technology and dance. The Los Angeles Times says "It's a wonderful hour of fantasy that combines ancient, wordless storytelling with modern technology and music." The show has been embraced by enthusiastic audiences and critics all over the world, including New York, Los Angeles, Vancouver, Toronto, Munich, Copenhagen, Estonia and Columbia. It soon will be performed in Moscow and St. Petersburg, as well.

The production is the creation of CORBiAN Visual Arts and Dance co-founders Corbin Popp and popular NFB principal guest artist Ian Carney. The two met

while dancing in *Movin' Out*, the Broadway musical created by pop icon Billy Joel and renowned choreographer Twyla Tharp. They quickly found that their common love of technology, carpentry and the arts sparked creative inspiration that became **Corbian**. They first developed their main characters, Professor Henslow and Corbian. Then together with their wives Whitney and Eleanor, also dancers, created the rest of the creatures in the story.

To create the stunning visual effects, a cast of six dancers, wearing black, disappear into the darkness allowing the glowing outlines of their creatures to emerge. More than 20 larger-than-life puppets (some as tall as 17 feet) are covered in EL wire, an electro-luminescent wire powered by batteries and is used mostly to illuminate walkways, signs and instrument panels on cars.

Corbian the Dinosaur has no spoken narrative and the story and action is driven by the movement and music. The music ranges in everything from classical to jazz to pop and includes such artists as Carl Orff, Henry Mancini, Annie Lennox and others. Audiences will also find other pop culture references to Star Wars and The Matrix, especially in its climatic showdown between Corbian the red dinosaur, Brutus.

For those students wanting to experience the behind the scenes magic of Corbian, a workshop will be offered prior to the performance. For more information visit the events page at nfballet.org.

Corbian the Dinosaur is recommended for children 6 and older and their families. The Mattie Kelly Arts Center is located on the Niceville Campus of Northwest Florida State College. Tickets are now on sale. More information can be found on nfballet.org.

The Northwest Florida Ballet celebrates its 42nd year as a regionally recognized semi-professional ballet company and school. In addition, NFB has developed the nationally acclaimed Académie – an integrated academic and dance education program serving 140 students from the third to eighth grade. The NFB is led by Artistic Director and CEO Todd Eric Allen, an area native. The NFB is funded in part by the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.

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Three attached photos by Steven Charles Nicholson

Additional photos available upon request.

To view video clips of Corbian visit <http://www.iancarney.com/video.html>