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**Northwest Florida Ballet performs *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in
Grand Park at Grand Boulevard on Oct. 13**

FORT WALTON BEACH, FL. – Sept. 20, 2018 – The Northwest Florida Ballet (NFB) opens the 2018-2019 season with a free outdoor performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Sat., Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. in Grand Boulevard at Sandestin's Grand Park. Choreographed by Katia Garza with beautiful music by Felix Mendelssohn, this magical production is based on William Shakespeare's famous play that includes a happy tangle of plots and subplots about the loves and adventures of mortals and mystical beings.

A Midsummer Night's Dream portrays the events surrounding the marriage of the Duke of Athens, Theseus, and the Queen of the Amazons, Hippolyta. These include the adventures of four young Athenian lovers and a group of amateur actors, who are manipulated by the fairies who inhabit the forest. This ballet consists of four interconnecting plots and is set simultaneously in the woodland and in the realm of Fairyland, under the light of the moon.

The production has a cast of more than 58 dancers that includes NFB Company members and an impressive array of international guest artists. The production's principal roles will be danced by NFB dancer Alex Trum as Titania and international guest artist David Webb as Oberon. Webb received his early training with English National Ballet and performed with Northern Ballet in Leeds, England for five years. He was a featured dancer with BalletMet in Columbus, Ohio for seven years and gave his premier performance with NFB last season in *The Nutcracker*.

Performing soloist roles are NFB dancers Savannah Crabtree in the role of Hermia, Camille Loftis in the role of Helena and guest artists Eduardo Iglesias as Lysander and Brent Whitney as Demetrius. NFB dancer Wyatt Mier will play the role of the mischievous Puck; Lily Greene will perform in the role of Hippolyta Queen of the Amazons with fellow NFB dancer Tommy Tona who portrays the roles of Theseus and Bottom. NFB dancers Luciana Ato, Jolin Crabtree, Sadie Wheelless and Mia Griffith will dance the roles of the soloist fairies. The cast is rounded out by 36 additional dancers from the NFB corps de ballet and trainee program.

Breathtaking scenery and costumes from Orlando Ballet and Mobile Ballet will add to the park's delightful ambiance. The production is presented as part of Grand Boulevard's Coastal Culture series, made possible by the Grand Boulevard Arts & Entertainment Program. Guest artist accommodations for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are provided by ResortQuest by Wyndham Vacation Rentals. The living scenery for the production is provided by Clay Garden & Gifts. NFB is sponsored in part by the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.

Standard season subscriptions are available now on the NFB website through Oct. 15 and include tickets to *The Nutcracker*, *Lightwire Theater's A Very Electric Christmas* and *New Moves* for \$100 per adult and \$40 per child (12 and under). Season subscribers may also purchase additional discounted

tickets and entry into VIP post-production parties. Please visit www.NFBallet.org or the NFB Facebook page for additional information about the production and the 2018-2019 season presented by the St. Joe Community Foundation.

The Northwest Florida Ballet celebrates its 49th 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 156 students from the third to eighth grade. In 2012 the NFB introduced the Pre-Professional Program – an intensive dance program for the 9th to 12th grade students preparing for a career in dance. 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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