

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Zikr Dance Ensemble Ushers in Return of Professional Dance to Salida and the SteamPlant Theater on Saturday, October 23

Performance kicks off three-week tour of Colorado and New Mexico by critically acclaimed group led by celebrated artistic director David Taylor

Denver, CO Nationally acclaimed Zikr Dance Ensemble performs at the SteamPlant Theater in Salida on Saturday, October 23, as part of its three-week tour of Colorado and New Mexico. Performance starts at 7:30 pm.

The 90-minute program, which concluded a sold-out run of performances this April in Boulder, Littleton, Highlands Ranch and Lakewood, features the premier of *Lifting the Veil* as well as other original Zikr works. Performances of *Lifting the Veil* were previewed and/or reviewed this *Spring* in the *Denver Post*, *Westword* and *Daily Camera*, as well as other media. (See below for links to stories.)

Zikr's tour runs October 15-31 and includes performances in Pueblo, Pagosa Springs, Ouray, Brighton, Broomfield, Highlands Ranch, Steamboat Springs, Rifle, Taos and, of course, Salida. All performances of *Lifting the Veil* will be held in compliance with local social-distancing and mask requirements.

"Since its inception, Zikr has been a seasonal touring company," says founder and artistic director David Taylor. "We've routinely performed throughout the Rocky Mountain region and eagerly look forward to doing so once again before a live audience. I'm sure we're not the only dance company or performing arts organization in Colorado feeling this way at the moment."

Taylor and his team began planning in 2020 for Zikr's return to the stage, a process that ran in fits and starts across the past year with venue operators adjusting to the changing requirements and restrictions of the state's COVID-19 dial. "We were committed to producing the program from the outset," states Taylor, "whether or not we'd have a theater to present it or audiences to experience it live."

Conceived and choreographed by Taylor, *Lifting the Veil* features breathtaking film projections and digital graphic effects created by cutting-edge visual artist Travis Powell from Deep Space Drive-In and a stunning set design by internationally acclaimed visual artist George Peters. The program also will include encore performances of Zikr's critically acclaimed *Oracle*, which will feature a new set by designer Jeff Rusnak, and *Runes*.

Since 2009, the Zikr Dance Ensemble has presented original works of dance that fuse ancient cultural rituals with contemporary dance and theater realizations. Stunning visual effects and projections complement live performances, featuring an international roster of world class dance artists, creating multimedia experiences that are artistically stimulating and intellectually captivating.

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Zikr Dance Ensemble *Lifting the Veil*

Saturday, October 23, 2021 @ 7:30 pm

SteamPlant Theater, 220 W Sackett Ave, Salida. Tickets are \$25 and \$15 for children twelve and under. For more information or to order tickets online, visit <https://salidasteamplant.com> or www.zikrdance.com.

About David Taylor

David Taylor has been professionally involved in the Colorado dance community for the past fifty years. He began choreographing in 1976 during the course of a twelve-year dance career, and since then has created over one hundred original works.

In 1979, Taylor founded the David Taylor Dance Theatre (DTDT) – one of the Rocky Mountain Region's most well-known and respected dance organizations for thirty-two years and Denver's original contemporary ballet company. As its principal choreographer for 27 years, Taylor's unique creative focal point became a fascination with the ritual of ancient cultures, metaphysical concepts and multi-media collaborations, which served to put DTDT on the map nationwide as a company to watch.

He received the City and County of Denver's first Individual Artist Fellowship Award for Dance in 1987, the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 1997, the Carson-Brierly Dance Library's "Living Legends of Dance" Award in 2006 and became a member of the International Dance Council in 2013. Taylor is also a recipient of three National Endowment for the Arts grants and his productions of "The Nutcracker" and "Rainforest" have been presented throughout the United States.

Taylor is an authority on dance history and sacred dance and continues to conduct workshops and lecture demonstrations on these subjects for statewide and national organizations. Currently, he also serves as the Artistic Director Emeritus and an upper level ballet program faculty member at Denver Ballet Theatre, teaching ballet technique, pointe, *pas de deux* and dance history.

Media for *Lifting the Veil*, April 2021

<https://theknow.denverpost.com/2021/04/02/zikr-dance-ensemble-live/255721/>

<https://www.westword.com/arts/zikr-dance-ensemble-returns-with-lifting-the-veil-11935786>

<https://www.dailycamera.com/2021/04/08/zikr-dances-lifting-the-veil-brings-metaphysical-ball-et-to-the-dairy-arts-center/>

https://www.coloradodrama.com/lifting_the_veil.html

<https://presentingdenver.org/the-commentary-corner/people-power-magic-live-dance-is-back/>