



931 S. Kickapoo • Springfield • Missouri • 65804 • 417-883-5274 • messiahpro@sbcglobal.net



NEWS RELEASE  
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Contact: Vicki Curless, Communications Director

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Set in the war zone of Dutch Haarlem in 1944, *The Hiding Place* is a portrayal of courage, morality, and love in the midst of desperate and unimaginable circumstances. The story of two sisters who choose to build a hidden compartment in their home in order to help their Jewish neighbors avoid Nazi capture is brought to the stage by the nationally-known company, **Ballet Magnificat! Omega** at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 13, 2008 at the Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts (Missouri State University campus) in Springfield.

Co-sponsored by local Christian fine arts organizations – The Messiah Project and Credo Dance Academy – the special performance will raise funds towards the expansion of programs held at the Credo Arts Center, located at 931 South Kickapoo. Tickets prices are \$10 for students and senior citizens; \$15 for adults; and \$25 for special, reserved seating in the Gold Circle. Tickets can be purchased by calling 883-5274. Tickets are limited in number so purchases should be made early to ensure your opportunity to see this haunting production of unimaginable circumstances made joyful by the power of forgiveness.

Ballet Magnificat! was founded in 1986 by Kathy Thibodeaux, a silver medalist at the second USA International Ballet Competition. Since its inception, the professional ballet company has created multiple touring companies that perform throughout the United States and internationally. Ballet Magnificat! strives to present artistic excellence while providing dramatic interpretations of Christian testimonies. Headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, Ballet Magnificat! performs over 200 times annually. Members of the touring companies have include professionals from Les Ballet Jazz de Montreal, Spokane Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, the State Theatre of the Czech Republic, Oldenburgisches Staatstheater of West Germany, Ballet Mississippi, Eternia dance Theater of Sweden, Ballet Etudes, Tallahassee Ballet Company, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Ballet Hawaii, and the Houston Ballet Academy. Kim Raymond is serving as the Missouri coordinator of the Ballet Magnificat! Omega performance of *The Hiding Place*. A former member of their company, Raymond now resides in the Springfield area and operates Petra Dance Company, a professional Christian dance company that performs for churches and at other venues throughout the region.

Working with Raymond to bring this production to the Springfield stage are Lindsey Robison of the Messiah Project and Jennie Cornwall of Credo Dance Academy. The Messiah Project has produced or hosted Christian fine arts music and dance productions since 1992, with performances in our local area as well as throughout the world. The Messiah Project recently joined with Credo Dance Academy to create Credo Arts Center, located at 931 South Kickapoo in central Springfield. The Center is used for Credo Dance Academy's various classes as well as for educational and entertainment programs that seek to *restore the Arts to the glory of God*. Proceeds from the Ballet Magnificat! Omega performance of *The Hiding Place* will be used to increase awareness of Christian arts, to create and maintain programs for children and adults to participate in fine arts training and performances, and to provide a space for local Christian artists to perform, display and practice the artistic gifts they have been given.