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**Continental Ballet Company will perform "Coppelia"**

*Summary: The Minnesota-based Continental Ballet Company will perform "Coppelia" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, in Edson Auditorium. The event is an offering of this season's Performing Arts Series.*

(February 12, 2009)-Recognized by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Arts in Washington, D.C. and placed on their Roster of Approved Artists, the Minnesota-based Continental Ballet Company will perform "Coppelia" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, in Edson Auditorium of the Morris campus Student Center. The event is an offering of the University of Minnesota, Morris Performing Arts Series.

"Coppelia" is a full-evening, three-act production of a 130-year-old favorite. The story concerns a mysterious and faintly diabolical inventor who makes a life-sized dancing doll. "Coppelia" is the light side of the "Frankenstein" theme of scientist as creator of life. The performance is a mixture of razor-sharp story-mime with bravura classical dance.

Established in 1988 by Riet Velthuisen, a former dancer with the Dutch National Ballet, the Continental Ballet Company presents professional classical ballet performances in the suburban Twin Cities area and throughout Minnesota. A nonprofit arts organization, the Company's mission is to provide opportunities for children and families to experience the art of classical ballet through performances, classes and community activities. The Company has performed classics, such as the Nutcracker and Cinderella, which have been presented to over 90,000 people statewide, including 30,000 K-12 children through school residencies and outreach activities, in addition to public events such as Arts in the Parks and the Minneapolis Sommerfest.

For more information or to obtain tickets, contact the UMM Office of Student Activities at (320) 589-6080.

Primary funding for this series is provided by University of Minnesota, Morris students. This activity is made possible in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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