

## Cheyenne Civic Center launches season with “Cocktail Hour: The Show”

Go & Do | September 12, 2019



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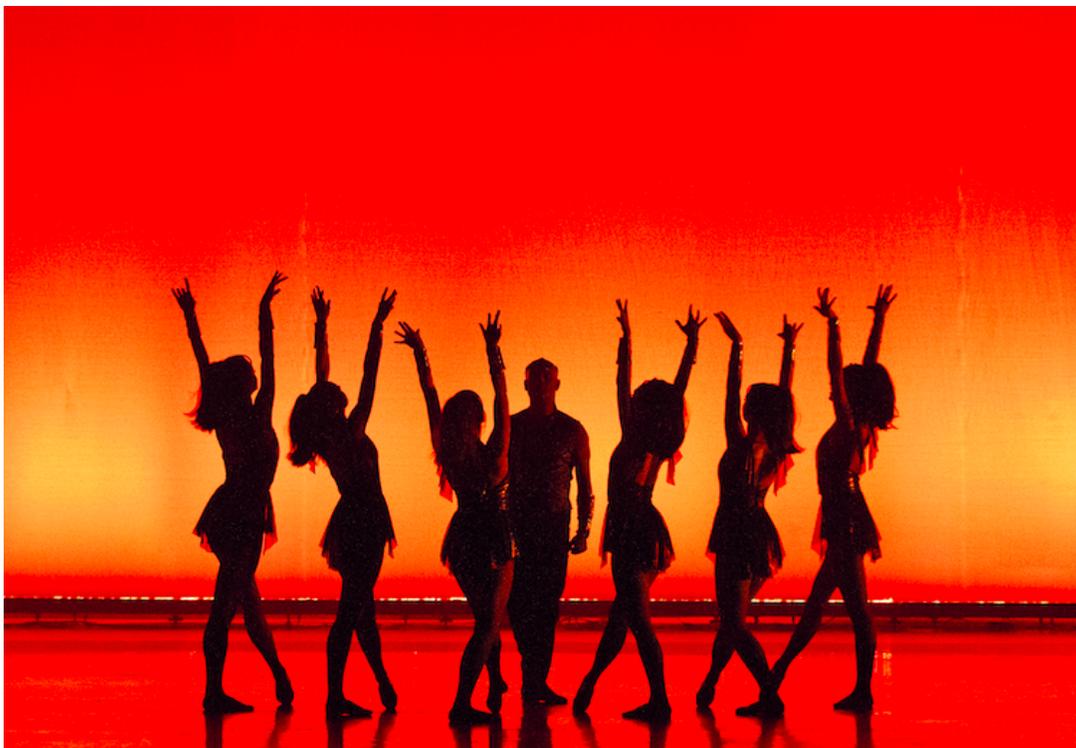


The Cheyenne Civic Center launches its 2019-20 season with a show that puts a unique twist on dance and cocktails.

“Cocktail Hour: The Show” takes the stage at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, bringing popular cocktails like the Mai Tai, Manhattan and Martini to life through music, dance and visual optics.

Fascinated with the many different types of cocktails, artistic director and choreographer Marilyn Klaus came up with the idea to bring life and personality to liquor through musical dance performances.

“My parents loved to do social dancing and turned their outdoor patio into a dancing club,” Klaus said. “They also had this hidden bar with all of these gorgeous bottles; kind of like collectors items. “I always thought that was kind of magical,” she added.



Brandy Alexander from *Cocktail Hour: The Show*.

Photo by Nico Malvaldi



Zombie from *Cocktail Hour: The Show*.

Photo by Nico Malvaldi

After moving to New York to work in choreography, Klaus slipped into the idea of creating individual vignettes that “tapped into American, European and Asian cocktails.”

“I’m sure one of the reasons people drink cocktails is because they are so creative,” Klaus said. “They can be so evocative.”

During the show, 15 classically trained dancers from Klaus’ New York City-based company Ballets with a Twist take audience members on a libations filled journey.

Some of the drink-inspired dances featured in the show are the “Brandy Alexander,” “Shirley Temple” and “Mint Julep.”

The show’s opening performance, “Zombie,” features the undead at a Wurlitzer-fueled 1950s American pool party, which is perfect for the October and Halloween season, Klaus said.

“We are closing our program in Cheyenne with our newest dance cocktail the ‘Hot Toddy’,” Klaus said. “It’s a speak easy type of thing where all of the people elude the police.”

While the new addition to the show is only eight minutes long, the choreography and design took more than two years to create, Klaus said.

#### **i** If you go

**What:** Cocktail Hour: The Show

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4

**Where:** Cheyenne Civic Center,  
519 W. 20th St. Cheyenne,  
Wyo.

**Cost:** Tickets range from \$20 to \$40. Seasonal subscriptions are available.

For more information or to purchase tickets, go to <http://www.cheyenneevents.org> or call (307) 637-6363.



Mint Julep from *Cocktail Hour: The Show*.

Photo by Nico Malvaldi

Denver native Seth Ives is one of the dancers in the show.

“When Marilyn hired me as a dancer, she didn’t know at the time I was also a bartender,” Ives said. “So a lot of the cocktails featured in the show, I knew how to make. So it was kind of a fun way of mixing my day job with dance.”

Coincidentally, Ives favorite cocktail to drink is also one of the dances he performs in.

“Right now I am in to gin martinis, just slightly dirty with a couple of olives,” Ives said, laughing. “Which is funny because I am in a dance called ‘Martini’ as well. It’s a fun performance and kind of James Bond-ish.”

In addition to featuring professional dancers, Klaus is offering a workshop and performance opportunity to local young dancers.

“We are performing a piece called ‘Mint Julep’ and the little ponies in the show will be dancers from Cheyenne,” Klaus said. “We are taking young dancers from the Cheyenne ballet school there and they will be performing with us.”

The dance company performs around 20 shows a year, sometimes more, Klaus said.

The show has made its way across the U.S., performing at a variety of venues such as the Playhouse Square in Cleveland, Zeiders American Dream Theater in Virginia and the Beacon Theatre in New York City.

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