



## **Ballet Austin Academy Announces Nationwide Audition Tour for 2012 Summer Intensive Program**

**AUSTIN, Texas**—January 4, 2011— Ballet Austin—with one of the largest professional ballet academies in the nation—is traveling to 29 cities to audition the nation’s most promising young ballet dancers. The dates and locations of Ballet Austin’s Summer Intensive audition tour, beginning January 2012, are:

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>1.07.12 – Atlanta, GA</b>          | <b>1.28.12 – Kansas City, MO</b>   |
| <b>1.07.12 – Ft. Worth, TX</b>        | <b>1.28.12 – New York, NY</b>      |
| <b>1.08.12 – Portland, OR</b>         | <b>1.29.12 – Chicago, IL</b>       |
| <b>1.08.12 – Salt Lake City, UT</b>   | <b>1.29.12 – Tucson, AZ</b>        |
| <b>1.09.12 – Colorado Springs, CO</b> | <b>2.04.12 – Philadelphia, PA</b>  |
| <b>1.14.12 – Cincinnati, OH</b>       | <b>2.04.12 – Pittsburgh, PA</b>    |
| <b>1.14.12 – Walled Lake, MI</b>      | <b>2.11.12 – Miami Beach, FL</b>   |
| <b>1.15.12 – Washington, DC</b>       | <b>2.11.12 – Boston/Natick, MA</b> |
| <b>1.15.12 – Winston-Salem, NC</b>    | <b>2.12.12 – Columbia, SC</b>      |
| <b>1.16.12 – Plano, TX</b>            | <b>2.12.12 – San Francisco, CA</b> |
| <b>1.16.12 – Seattle, WA</b>          | <b>2.12.12 – Tulsa, OK</b>         |
| <b>1.21.12 – Santa Monica, CA</b>     | <b>2.18.12 – Austin, TX</b>        |
| <b>1.22.12 – Sacramento, CA</b>       | <b>2.18.12 – Pensacola, FL</b>     |
| <b>1.22.12 – San Diego, CA</b>        | <b>2.19.12 – Huntsville, AL</b>    |
| <b>1.27.12 – Oklahoma City, OK</b>    |                                    |

Each year, Ballet Austin’s Senior Summer Intensive Program attracts students from across the U.S. and several countries. The program offers two 3-week sessions or one 6-week session for serious students ages 11-22 and provides dancers with professional aspirations the chance to learn from Ballet Austin’s senior artistic staff, including Artistic Director Stephen Mills. The program allows participants the exclusive opportunity to be selected to join Ballet Austin II—Ballet Austin’s second company. Ballet Austin II alumni comprise nearly 70 percent of Ballet Austin’s professional company.

For more information on the auditions for Ballet Austin’s Summer Intensive Program, [click here](#) or visit [www.balleteaustin.org](http://www.balleteaustin.org). For questions, contact Ballet Austin’s Director of Schools Operations Vicki Parsons at **512.476.9051 ext.126** or [vicki.parsons@balleteaustin.org](mailto:vicki.parsons@balleteaustin.org).

### **About Ballet Austin’s Academy and Ballet Austin II**

Founded in 1956 by Barbara Carson, Ballet Austin Academy is the official ballet school of Ballet Austin and is committed to providing the highest quality dance instruction to its students. Currently, the Academy has more than 1,000 students, making it one of the largest ballet schools in the United States.

Established in 1999, Ballet Austin II is Ballet Austin’s second company/apprentice program. Ballet Austin II employs eight apprentice dancers, ages 18-23, on a 34-week contract. Performing with the main company in larger productions, Ballet Austin II dancers also maintain their own repertoire and have

performed and toured internationally in original works such as *Quiet Imprint* by Thang Dao and *Strange Shadows* by Jennifer Hart. Other choreographers represented in the Ballet Austin II repertoire include Stephen Mills, George Balanchine, Nick Kepley, and Nelly van Bommel.

Apprentices are contracted with Ballet Austin II for up to two years, during which time they receive artistic guidance, career management counseling, and job placement assistance. Ballet Austin II apprentices are recruited through Ballet Austin's Summer Intensive Program and the year-round trainee program. Nearly 70 percent of the main company's current roster includes graduates of Ballet Austin II. Additionally, former Ballet Austin II dancers have joined the ranks of both ballet and modern dance companies, including Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Smuin Ballet, Nashville Ballet, Dayton Ballet, Washington Ballet, Nai-Ni Chen, The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, Ballet Met, Kansas City Ballet, Kim Robards Dance Company, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, Wideman/Davis Dance and Thang Dao Dance.

### **About Ballet Austin**

As distinctive and dynamic as the city it calls home, Ballet Austin welcomes audiences near and far to participate in its "classically innovative" vision for the democratization of dance. With a rich history spanning five decades, acclaimed productions, a commitment to creating access to programs and one of the nation's largest classical ballet academies, the organization is poised for an even greater future. From their home at the Butler Dance Education Center in downtown Austin, Ballet Austin and artistic director Stephen Mills actively engage the community, dancers, and audiences alike. *The New York Times* proclaims Ballet Austin "a company with big ambitions" originating work that is "absorbing."

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### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

501 West Third Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

Ballet Austin Schools: 512.476.9051  
General info: 512.476.9151

**IMAGES:** [luann.glowacz@balletaustin.org](mailto:luann.glowacz@balletaustin.org) for print-ready, password-free images  
**PRESS:** For interviews, details contact LuAnn Glowacz at 512.476.9151, ext. 101  
**WEB:** [www.balletaustin.org](http://www.balletaustin.org)