



2010 American Ballet Competition Moves To Austin, TX
Ballet Austin's AustinVentures StudioTheater Selected
Master Teachers to Include Ballet Austin Artistic Team Stephen Mills, Michelle Martin

WHO: The Institute for Dance Education Arts, Inc.
WHAT: 2010 American Ballet Competition Moves To Austin, Texas
WHEN: March 19-21, 2010
WHERE: AustinVentures StudioTheater at the Butler Dance Education Center

AUSTIN, TX—Ballet Austin today announces The American Ballet Competition (ABC), presented by the Institute for Dance Education Arts is pleased to announce that it will be holding its 2010 Competition March 19-21 in Austin, Texas. Ballet Austin's Butler Dance Education Center & AustinVentures StudioTheater has been chosen as the 2010 host for the event.

The highly regarded American Ballet Competition offers young talented contestants professional exposure through unmatched opportunities to be viewed by international dance directors and teachers. Scholarships and traineeships to some of the most prestigious dance schools in the United States and abroad are awarded.

Master teachers and coaches in 2010 will include Stephen Mills, Artistic Director and Michelle Martin, Associate Director of Ballet Austin, Kee Juan Han, Washington Ballet School Director and Didier Chirpaz, Artistic Director of the Jeune Ballet du Quebec.

"The competition is conducted in a positive and organized atmosphere that promotes not only the artistic and technical growth of all participants but affords valuable insights and reality checks that address their professional expectations" Katherine Kersten, ABC Artistic Director.

Competitors will be arriving from Asia, Europe, South America and from throughout the United States to compete in Classical Ballet and Contemporary categories for solo competitors and the new Ensemble category for groups of six to sixteen dancers. Students compete in age appropriate divisions: Pre-competitive (ages 9-10); Junior (ages 11-12); Senior (ages 13-16) and Pre-professional (ages 17-20).

Awards include company traineeships, academic and summer scholarships offered by major dance companies and schools including the Jeune Ballet de Quebec, Canada; Ecole Superieure de Ballet Contemporain Quebec; Ballet Austin II and Academy; Interlochen Arts Academy and Arts Camp; Atlanta Ballet's Center for Dance Education; Academy of Colorado Ballet and Colorado Ballet Studio Company; Joffrey Ballet School, NY;

BALLET *Austin*

Milwaukee Ballet; The Washington Ballet School and the Missouri Ballet Theatre.

Established in 2004 by artistic director Katherine Kersten and Kee Juan Han, the Institute for Dance Education Arts (IDEA) is the umbrella organization for two distinguished programs: The American Ballet Competition and International Dance Teacher Seminars which provides unique educational opportunities for teachers to enhance and empower teaching skills led by master pedagogues. The 2009 seminar was lead by Bournonville expert, Dinna Bjorn.

Applicants may contact the American Ballet Competition via idea.abc@gmail.com or 1.970.376.2607. Please visit www.americanballetcompetition.com for details and registration information. Deadline for registration for ABC is February 15, 2010.

Stephen Mills, Artistic Director

Mr. Mills has created more than 40 works for companies in the United States and abroad. His ballets are in the repertoires of such companies as The Atlanta Ballet, Washington Ballet, Cuballet in Havana, Cuba, BalletMet Columbus, The DaytonBallet, The Sarasota Ballet of Florida, Ballet Pacifica, Dallas Black Dance Theater, The Louisville Ballet, The Nashville Ballet, Fort Worth/Dallas Ballet and Kaleidoscope. He has worked in collaboration with such luminaries as the eight-time Grammy Award-winning band, Asleep at the Wheel, and Shawn Colvin. In addition to his work as a choreographer, Mr. Mills is committed as a master teacher to developing dancers. He has been a teacher at many pre-professional academies including Goucher College; Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts in Dallas; The Virginia School of the Arts; The New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts; Stephens College and Point Park College in Pittsburgh. Mr. Mills also serves on the Board of Trustees of the national dance service organization, Dance USA.

Ballet Austin

As distinctive and dynamic as the city it calls home, Ballet Austin welcomes people near and far to participate in its "classically innovative" vision for the democratization of dance. From their bustling, urban headquarters at the Butler Dance Education Center and Community School in downtown Austin, Ballet Austin and artistic director Stephen Mills actively engage the community, dancers, and audiences alike. With a rich history spanning 53 years, a commitment to education as well as lifelong fitness, and acclaimed productions in Austin and across the nation, the organization is equally committed to the international craft of dance as it is to the community it serves. *The New York Times* proclaims Ballet Austin "a company with big ambitions" originating work that is "absorbing."

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION

BALLET *Austin*

501 West Third Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Box Office: 512.476.2163
Academy: 512.476.9151
General info: 512.476.9151
Fax: 512.476.3973

IMAGES: david@wyattbrand for print-ready, password-free images
MEDIA: For interviews, details contact Katherine C. Kersten, Artistic Director
idea.abc@gmail.com 970.376.2607
WEB: www.americanballetcompetition.com

###