



## **Ballet Austin's Butler Dance Education Center selected for 2009 International Dance Teachers Seminar**

- WHO:** The Institute for Dance Education Arts with Ballet Austin  
Featuring Dinna Bjørn, master teacher of the Bournonville School
- WHAT:** 2009 International Dance Teachers Seminar
- WHEN:** April 3, 4, & 5, 2009
- WHERE:** Ballet Austin's Butler Dance Education Center & Community School  
501 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Austin, Texas 78701 at San Antonio Street
- REGISTER:** By March 25, 2009 at [www.americanballetcompetition.com](http://www.americanballetcompetition.com)
- COST:** \$350 for teachers, \$35 - \$175 for intermediate-advanced students age 13-19

**AUSTIN, TX** - Ballet Austin's Butler Dance Education Center & Community School facility has been chosen as the 2009 host for the International Dance Teachers Seminar. This intensive 3-day course, presented and organized by The Institute for Dance Education Arts will focus on enhancing teaching and coaching skills and the underlying methodology and technical understanding of imparting this knowledge.

On April 3 - 5, Ballet Austin's 34,000 sq. ft. center will welcome dance teachers, educators, coaches, historians, dancers, students and parents to this . international gathering. The Seminar has been held for the past five years in Miami at the New World School of the Arts.

The central presenter in this year's three-day conference will be Dinna Bjørn - one of today's greatest master teachers. Ms. Bjørn is recognized throughout the dance world as one of the premier pedagogues of the Bournonville style. The philosophy of the method of teaching employed by the Bournonville School along with basic understanding of the student's development with class progression, placement and style, will be comprehensively covered.

Seminar Director Katherine Kersten says, "This seminar is for teachers and dancers who love to analyze, dissect technique and teaching methods and no one is more qualified for this than Dinna Bjørn. Dinna is the quintessential teacher's teacher - three intensive days with her is a rare opportunity not to be missed!"

The daily plan will include technique, theory, demonstrations and discussion. Each day will begin with a master class followed by in-depth discussions of the pedagogical principles used. Sessions will cover analysis of training levels, barre and center progression, pointe work and specialties of the Bournonville style.

Ballet Austin opened the Butler Dance Education Center facility in downtown Austin in 2007. Within walking distance from the city's premiere cultural, civic, culinary, retail, architectural, recreational, and historical attractions, the building boasts seven rehearsal studios; the AustinVentures StudioTheater - an in-house performance space with capacity to seat 275; a box office; locker rooms with showers; offices for administrative and artistic staff,

# BALLET *Austin*

the Ballet Austin Academy, and the popular Butler Community School. The open-enrollment school, which also opened in 2007, was conceived as a hub for movement where everyone is encouraged to express and explore. Through classes that include Pilates, yoga, dance fitness, and open dance ranging from ballroom to jazz and hula to hip hop, The Butler Community School promotes recreational dance and life long fitness.

## **About Dinna Bjørn and the The Bournonville Technique**

Ms. Bjørn was director of the Norwegian National Ballet and advisor to the artistic director of the Royal Danish Ballet. She was the artistic director of the Finnish National Ballet from 2001 - 2008. Ms. Bjørn has taught and coached the works and technique of Bournonville since 1975. She has participated in Bournonville research and reconstructions and has transmitted the legacy of Bournonville's repertoire and technique throughout the world.

August Bournonville (1805-1879), a student of Auguste Vestris, created over 100 ballets and trained several generations of Royal Danish dancers. His work still resembles its original form and his ballets have undergone fewer changes in style than those of Marius Petipa. His work includes lightness, ballon, fleet small allegro and clean batterie often not seen in today's ballet training. Jumps, beats and precise footwork - Bournonville trademarks - are important technical values and remain important tools for ballet teachers to develop in their students a clear, clean technique and execution.

## **About The Institute for Dance Education Arts, Inc.**

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 International Dance Teacher Seminars provides unique educational opportunities to enhance and empower teaching skills led by master pedagogues. The highly regarded American Ballet Competition offers young talented contestants professional exposure through unmatched opportunities to be viewed by dance directors and teachers. Scholarships and traineeships to some of the most prestigious dance schools in the United States and abroad are awarded to future dance artists.

## **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, and one of the nation's largest classical ballet academies, the organization is poised for an even greater future. From their new home 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. *The New York Times* proclaims Ballet Austin "a company with big ambitions" originating work that is "absorbing."

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**WEB:** <http://www.balletaustin.org>  
<http://www.americanballetcompetition.com/html/teachersseminar.html>

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