



Ballet Austin Announces Call for Choreographers for 3rd Biennial *New American Talent/Dance*

WHO: Ballet Austin
WHAT: Call for Entries for the 3rd Biennial *New American Talent/Dance*
WHEN: Deadline for Entries: Mar 30, 2009. Performance: Mar 25 – Apr 4, 2010
WHERE: AustinVentures StudioTheater at the Butler Dance Education Center
501 West Third Street, Austin, Texas 78701
APPLY: www.balletaustin.org/newamericantalent

AUSTIN, TX – Ballet Austin announces the 3rd Biennial *New American Talent/Dance* - a choreographic competition that brings the country's most compelling artists to Austin to showcase new work before a nationally renowned jury and live voting audiences.

Choreographers are cordially invited to submit their work for consideration.

New American Talent/Dance is a groundbreaking choreographic competition that features three of the most promising, early to mid career choreographers in the nation, three internationally renowned judges and live audience voting. The jurors initiate the journey by culling the national pool of choreographic entrants to three choreographers on the cusp of their own creative breakthrough. The 2008 *New American Talent/Dance* Finalists were Sidra Bell, Viktor Kabaniaev and Amy Seiwert with the Grand Prize being awarded to Kabaniaev.

All applications must be postmarked no later than March 30, 2009. For consideration by the panel, all applicants must be 21 years of age or older and be an American citizen or landed immigrant. Ballet Austin will select and notify 6 semifinalists by April 30 and will choose three finalists by May 29. Finalists will participate in a 1-day casting call with Ballet Austin's dancers in September 2009. Finalists will complete a 2-week choreographic residency and will return to Austin to mount their work on stage for Ballet Austin at the AustinVentures StudioTheater in Austin, Texas.

Stephen Mills, Artistic Director of the company says, "*New American Talent/Dance* is an fundamental part of Ballet Austin's commitment to the professional dance industry." Mills continues, "I was given opportunities early in my career and, in turn, I wanted to create a platform for artists who are early in their choreographic careers to develop their craft and develop their careers in an environment that gives them access to some of the best production facilities, staff and dancers in the industry."

Each of the three jurors will have a \$5,000 discretionary fund to be allocated to finalists



following the premiere. Additional prize money will be awarded to the choreographer garnering the most audience votes.

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.

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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