



For Immediate Release

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Ancillary Events Create Festival-like Atmosphere At 2002 USA International Ballet Competition

*Exhibits, Guest Performances and Workshops Ensure Palette of Arts and
Entertainment to Satisfy Local and International Guests*

Jackson, Miss., April 23, 2002— The USA International Ballet Competition (USA IBC), scheduled for June 15-30, in Jackson, Mississippi, will showcase 116 of the world's best dancers, transforming the capital city into the center of the dance world for two-weeks. In addition to viewing three rounds of intense competition among junior and senior competitors performing classical and contemporary variations, dance enthusiasts will enjoy a host of ancillary events that surround the competition.

Since its inception, activities that run concurrently with the event have been a defining characteristic of the USA IBC, the official international ballet competition of the United States. Exhibits, guest performances and workshops ensure that USA IBC supporters have a full palette of arts and entertainment to satisfy their taste.

“For each competition, extensive consideration is given to the types of events that will complement the IBC,” said Peter Merz, artistic administrator for the USA IBC. “We seek out new and distinctive offerings without eliminating IBC favorites like the Teachers’ Workshop and the International Dance School.”

Most of the ancillary events will be located at Thalia Mara Hall and are offered to the public at no cost. During the competition, an art exhibit featuring USA IBC Poster Artist Kenneth Humphry and other Mississippi artists will be on display on the mezzanine

Add One/USA IBC Ancillary Events

of the theatre. There will be a spectacular display of ballet costumes by prominent British designer Peter Farmer in the lobby area. The dance photography of internationally renowned photographer Howard Schatz will also be exhibited on the first floor of Thalia Mara Hall.

Scheduled guest performances include Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago and Regional Dance America. On June 19, Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago will offer a master class and lecture demonstration. An evening performance on June 20 will showcase the unique styles of this dance troupe. Regional Dance America (RDA), a training ground for some of the finest talent in the country, will give a matinee performance on June 28 at Thalia Mara Hall and all five RDA regional companies will be represented.

“Our ancillary events make Jackson a cultural melting pot for the competition’s two-week duration,” said USA IBC Executive Director Sue Lobrano. “It’s exciting to celebrate this event which continues to grow into a festival of dance-related activities for participants and spectators to enjoy. There are also local attractions and restaurants that have made special plans in conjunction with the USA IBC.”

Other customary events planned for 2002 include a Teacher’s Workshop with David Howard, a Pilates® Workshop and the International Dance School with an array of master dance teachers.

New to the roster of events is “Lunch with the IBC” held at the Mississippi Museum of Arts’ Palette Restaurant on June 18, 21 and 25. Special guest presenters affiliated with the USA IBC will speak on various dance-related themes.

For more information contact the USA IBC office at 601.355.9853 or visit the Web site at www.usaibc.com.

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