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**PHILADANCO TAPPED FOR RESIDENCY AT
2010 USA INTERNATIONAL BALLET COMPETITION**

Company to be featured in workshop, lecture/demonstration and performance

Jackson, Miss., December 17, 2009 – The USA International Ballet Competition will host The Philadelphia Dance Company, affectionately known as [Philadanco](#), for a two-day residency June 16-17, 2010. Philadanco is celebrated around the world and across the nation for its innovation, creativity and preservation of predominantly African-American traditions in dance.

“In 2010, Philadanco will celebrate 40 years of providing exceptional dance performances and training to dance communities and audiences across the United States and abroad,” said Sue Lobrano, executive director of the USA IBC. “We are excited to introduce this talented company to our audience. This performance will be a must-see event in the year’s arts calendar.”

On June 16, the renowned troupe will conduct a master class for advanced and professional dancers and a lecture/demonstration, which is open to the public. These activities will culminate in an evening performance to be held June 17.

Founded in 1970 by Joan Myers Brown, Philadanco has appeared throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, United Kingdom and Caribbean with major orchestras including the Philadelphia Orchestra. Beyond its Philadelphia Season, Philadanco’s unique cultural gifts attract increasingly larger audiences in major settings like Lincoln Center, The Joyce Theater and other important venues. The company easily moves from the classical genre incorporating the music of Mahler, Bach and Ravel to the modern style of dance utilizing the contemporary rhythms of Prince, Wumni Olaiya and Earth, Wind and Fire.

This past year Philadanco had the pleasure of performing at venues such as Central Park Summerstage in New York City and The Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) and spent February and March 2008 in a noteworthy tour across Germany, Austria, The Netherlands and Budapest, Hungary.

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Over the past 39 years, Philadanco's stellar faculty has trained more than 4,500 dancers in a comprehensive program achieving the highest level of technical skills in dance and performance. The unique blend of dance styles of Philadanco and its roster of 50 to 60 concert performances and 45 residencies annually has made them one of the most sought-after modern companies in the United States. In 2000 the company, along with eight other cultural organizations, received permanent residency at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

In 1981 the company was one of only 15 organizations awarded the prestigious National Choreography Planning Grant. It organized the historic first two International Conferences for Black Dance Companies with more than 75 representatives convening in Philadelphia. For the past 20 years, more than 600 people have assembled annually for the International Conference on Black Dance; headed by the [International Association of Blacks in Dance](#), which was also founded and now chaired by Joan Myers Brown.

For tickets to the Philadanco dance performance or to any USA IBC performance, call 601-973-9249 or order [online](#).

The USA IBC is a two-week, "olympic-style" competition where tomorrow's stars vie for gold, silver and bronze medals; cash awards; company contracts; and scholarships. The event is designated as the official international ballet competition in the United States by a Joint Resolution of Congress. Presented under the auspices of the International Dance Committee, International Theatre Institute of UNESCO, the USA IBC is held every four years in Jackson, Miss., in the tradition of sister competitions in Varna, Bulgaria, and Moscow, Russia.

For more information visit www.usaibc.com or join our Facebook communities. Search USA International Ballet Competition to find Fans of the USA International Ballet Competition, an open group for the general public, or USA International Ballet Competition Prospective Competitors, an open group for dancers wishing to compete in the 2010 USA IBC.

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