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**USA INTERNATIONAL BALLET COMPETITION ANNOUNCES 2006
ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Jackson, Miss., January 10, 2007 --- A recent study shows that the eighth USA International Ballet Competition (USA IBC) which took place in Jackson, Mississippi, June 17 – July 2, 2006, generated an economic impact on Mississippi of \$7.5 million based on program and attendee expenditures. The independent study was compiled by the Department of Economic and Workforce Development at the University of Southern Mississippi. Other figures from the study reveal that these expenditures also generated a personal income of \$4.3 million locally.

The economic impact was calculated using attendance numbers and figures from ticket sales. The total attendance for the 2-week competition and its ancillary events was 36,629. The Awards and Encore Galas were edited and broadcast by Mississippi Public Broadcasting in November and January, reaching a potential viewing audience of 2 million.

“We are pleased with these numbers for our city and state,” said Sue Lobrano, USA IBC executive director. “It is a tremendous boost to the economy. Dance enthusiasts and media flock to Jackson to see some of the world’s finest young dancers. The USA IBC also provides an introduction to dance for many children and adults in our community.”

USA IBC participants included 96 competitors from 24 countries. The IBC’s companion dance school drew 296 students from 24 states and 5 countries. Ticket buyers came from 38 states and 9 countries to see the competition.

The USA International Ballet Competition is the official international ballet competition in the U.S. by a 1982 Joint Resolution of the United States Congress. It is held in Jackson, Mississippi, every four years. The next USA IBC will take place June 12 – 27, 2010.

For additional information on the USA IBC, call 601.355.9853 or visit the official web site at www.usaibc.com.

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