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**2010 USA INTERNATIONAL BALLET COMPETITION
TICKET PACKAGES NOW AVAILABLE**

Jackson, Miss., December 10, 2009 – All-inclusive ticket packages for the 2010 USA International Ballet Competition, scheduled for June 12 – 27, at Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson, Mississippi, will go on sale to the public January 4, 2010.

The 2010 competition will build on a 30-year heritage of attracting the world's best dancers.

Ticket packages include admission to all 16 performances during the two-week event and are discounted 15 percent off the price of individual performance tickets. Individual performance tickets will be available for purchase April 5, 2010.

Due to the popularity of the event, the public is encouraged to purchase tickets in advance.

Over the past 30 years, the number of competitors and countries represented in the USA IBC has almost doubled, creating added excitement for both local and international audiences. In 1975, the Jackson Ballet Guild invited Thalia Mara, renowned ballet teacher and educator, to develop a professional ballet company and school for the state of Mississippi. As a part of her development plan, she introduced city leaders to the idea of ballet competitions and convinced them to secure the USA IBC for the city of Jackson.

With the help of local, national, and international endorsements, and the energy and commitment of the citizens of Jackson, the first USA International Ballet Competition was held in June 1979, featuring 70 dancers from 15 countries. The previous competition, held in 2006, featured 121 dancers from 26 countries.

All-inclusive packages include tickets for each round of competition, as well as the Opening Ceremony and the Awards Gala. Package prices are \$231 for lower balcony and rear orchestra seating, \$303 for loge and orchestra seating, and \$366 for dress circle seating.

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“USA IBC tickets are in high demand as soon as the box office opens, and the best seats sell out quickly,” said Sue Lobrano, USA IBC executive director. “Purchasing a ticket package is a great value and an excellent way to secure the best seats for the most popular nights of the event – opening night, round three and the awards gala.”

Each night the USA IBC offers spectacular dance performances from the classical ballet repertoire and contemporary works. “Typically, audience members who attend each performance develop a preference for their favorite dancers and cheer them on as they advance to the next round,” said Lobrano.

Dance-related exhibits, master classes and performances by the Bad Boys of Dance, Philadanco and Regional Dance America will be held in conjunction with the 2010 competition. For more ticket information or to order packages for the 2010 USA IBC, 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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