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**2010 USA INTERNATIONAL BALLET COMPETITION
COMPETITORS ANNOUNCED**

Competitors from 36 countries will vie for cash, medals, scholarships and contracts

NEW YORK CITY, March 23, 2010 – [USA International Ballet Competition](#) (USA IBC) officials announced today that 119 competitors from 36 countries will compete in the 2010 USA IBC, the official ballet competition of the United States by a Joint Resolution of Congress. The ninth quadrennial event will be held in Jackson, Miss., June 12 – 27.

[Arthur Mitchell](#), founding artistic director of [Dance Theatre of Harlem](#) and Honorary Chairman of the USA IBC, also took part in the announcement.

“The USA IBC had a record number of applicants this year – but the technical ability, artistry, physique and spirit of these individuals really stood out,” said Sue Lobrano, USA IBC executive director. “We are excited to welcome such a high caliber, competitive group to this prestigious competition.”

During the 2010 event, 42 dancers will compete as juniors, ages 15 to 18, and 77 as seniors, ages 19 to 26.

“We look forward to hosting these competitors at the continent’s first and most important ballet competition where they will compete for gold, silver and bronze medals, company contracts and scholarships,” Lobrano said.

Along with the competitors from around the world, the USA IBC will also celebrate the history of the competition and the legacy of [Thalia Mara](#) as part of the [American Masterpieces Initiative](#), awarded by the [Mississippi Arts Commission](#) through the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) (NEA). NEA created this national initiative to acquaint Americans with the best of their cultural and artistic legacy.

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Mara, who secured the USA IBC for the City of Jackson in 1979, had an international reputation as a performer, teacher and ballet educator. Former students and colleagues of Mara will take part in the opening ceremonies, including Kathy Thibodeaux, USA IBC 1986 silver medalist and founder and artistic director of Ballet Magnificat; David Keary, artistic director of Ballet Mississippi; Madeleine Nichols, former director of New York Public Library for the Performing Arts; and Lobrano, who taught with Mara at the Jackson Ballet.

Two world-renowned dance companies have also been tapped for performances during the USA IBC. [Bad Boys of Dance](#), founded by USA IBC 1998 gold medalist Rasta Thomas, will perform during opening ceremonies. The Philadelphia Dance Company, affectionately known as [Philadanco](#), will conduct a master class for advanced and professional dancers, offer a lecture/demonstration open to the public and present an evening performance.

A festival of dance is planned for the USA IBC, including a performance featuring [Regional Dance America](#) companies; a four-day Classical Tutus, Bodices, and Jeweled Tiaras seminar taught by Claudia Folts of Tutu.Com; a photography workshop and exhibition by dance photographer Lois Greenfield; and the USA IBC Dance School and Teachers Workshop.

National sponsors of the USA IBC include American Harlequin Corporation, AT&T, Capezio Ballet Makers Inc., McFadden Performing Arts Media LLC and Viking Range Corporation.

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.

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Editor’s Note:

A complete list of competitors is available in a separate document. The list is also available electronically at www.usaibc.com/media.