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USA INTERNATIONAL BALLET COMPETITION OFFERS HOST OF ANCILLARY EVENTS FOR AUDIENCES

Jackson, Miss., April 21, 2010 – From June 12 to June 27, 2010, an international audience will join with local dance enthusiasts as the City of Jackson eats, sleeps and celebrates the beauty of dance. Every four years the capital of Mississippi also becomes the capital of the dance world as the [USA International Ballet Competition](#) (USA IBC) transforms the city into a ballet mecca.

In addition to viewing three rounds of intense competition among junior and senior competitors and performances by world-renowned dance troupes, audiences will enjoy a host of ancillary events that surround the competition.

“Competitors visiting Mississippi for the first time will be welcomed by our Southern charm and hospitality,” said Sue Lobrano, USA IBC executive director. “Guests from around the world and local residents will be fully entertained as well.”

During the competition, an art exhibit featuring the work of USA IBC official artist [Brent Funderburk](#) will be on display in the mezzanine of Thalia Mara Hall. Funderburk, an esteemed John Grisham Professor of Excellence at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Miss., has taught art for 28 years. His large acrylic and watercolor paintings have been exhibited widely in national and international venues.

“Art and dance take the elements that seem to counter us – the rain, the earth, fire and human nature – and somehow brings them onto a stage to create something that gives us meaning as human beings,” Funderburk said. “I’m so pleased to be a part of that. The 2010 USA IBC will be a feast of wonders – all of the pieces of art (musicians, dancers, artists) will come together, and there will be something for all of us.”

Also on display will be [Lois Greenfield](#)’s latest collection “Celestial Bodies/Infernal Souls.” Greenfield, whose work will be featured at the Mississippi Arts Center, is an internationally known dance photographer who has spent the past 25 years of her career investigating movement and its expressive potential.

Greenfield will conduct a workshop for photographers on Friday, June 18 at North Midtown Arts Center on Millsaps Avenue. In her workshop, Greenfield will share her method – both technical and artistic – and guide photographers through capturing “the moment.” She will demonstrate how she directs the dancers to achieve her signature, crystal-sharp images. The more impossible the picture appears, the more success, according to Greenfield.

Tutu.Com will also host a workshop – a five-day “Classical Tutus, Bodices and Jeweled Tiaras” seminar beginning Monday, June 21 and culminating with a fashion show on Friday, June 25. From ‘just the basics’ for the beginning student to a wide range of role-specific performance-ready advanced projects for the mid-level to very advanced student, this series will appeal to a wide audience. Taught by Master Designer Claudia Folts, this hands-on workshop will teach techniques, tips and tricks of classical tutu design and construction in a vibrant, intense and fun setting. Tutu.com events will be held at Marriott Jackson.

Greenfield and Folts will be featured as guest speakers at two luncheon and lecture programs “Lunch with the IBC.” Olga Smoak, known internationally for her tenacious support of ballet and leadership among the arts community, will join them as a speaker at a third program. Held Saturday, June 19, Monday, June 21 and Wednesday, June 23 at 11:30 a.m. at Marriott Jackson, the events are open to the public with lunch available for purchase at each program. Following the luncheon on June 19, participants may join Greenfield for an “Artist Talk and Gallery Walk” at her exhibit at the Mississippi Arts Center. Reservations must be made in advance.

The Greater Jackson Arts Council will present “Just Dance,” a juried competition for all types of artists. Selected pieces will hang at the Mississippi Arts Center throughout the USA IBC with an opening reception on Saturday, June 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. Winners will receive cash prizes. For more information on how to enter call 601-960-1557.

The USA IBC will host The Philadelphia Dance Company, affectionately known as Philadanco, for a two-day residency June 16-17. Philadanco is celebrated around the world and across the nation for its innovation, creativity and preservation of predominantly African-American traditions in dance. Philadanco will perform Thursday, June 17 at Thalia Mara Hall. Seating is not reserved, and all tickets are \$5. The Company will conduct a master class on Wednesday, June 16 at 2:15 p.m. at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum followed by a lecture/demonstration at 4:30 p.m. at the Belhaven Center for Performing Arts.

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 a complete list of events, visit www.usaibc.com/ancillary. For more information about USA IBC, visit www.usaibc.com or join our [Facebook community](#).

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