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USA INTERNATIONAL BALLET COMPETITION SELECTS D'AMBOISE AND HART AS 2010 HOST AND HOSTESS

Jackson, Miss., May 10, 2010 – [Christopher d'Amboise](#) and [Evelyn Hart](#) have been chosen as the host and hostess of the [2010 USA International Ballet Competition](#), which will take place in Jackson, Miss., June 12 – June 27, 2010.

“In view of their extensive background as dancers and teachers of ballet, Christopher and Evelyn were natural choices for the host and hostess of 2010,” said Sue Lobrano, USA IBC executive director. “We are honored to have these talented dance professionals preside at the ninth USA IBC.”

As a principal dancer with New York City Ballet, d'Amboise worked closely with both George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins, originating works as well as performing major repertoire. On Broadway he co-starred with Bernadette Peters in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Song and Dance*, for which he earned a Tony nomination. As a choreographer, d'Amboise works in both theater and ballet. He has created more than 80 works seen worldwide in cities including London, Prague, Paris, Copenhagen, New York, Lisbon and Istanbul. His ballets have been presented in more than 30 companies including New York City Ballet, Royal Ballet of Flanders, Pennsylvania Ballet, National Ballet of Amsterdam and the San Francisco Ballet.

As artistic director and president/CEO of The Pennsylvania Ballet, d'Amboise pulled the company out of bankruptcy with the unprecedented “Save the Ballet Campaign” raising more than \$2.5 million from 10,000 Philadelphia residents in two weeks. He led the company through four successful seasons.

After studying in the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, Professional Division, Hart joined the Royal Winnipeg Ballet in 1976, became a soloist in 1978 and principal dancer in 1979. Over her 30-year career with Royal Winnipeg Ballet, she performed on stages in more than 110 countries and on every continent. With David Peregrine as her partner, Hart entered the World Ballet Concours in Osaka, Japan in 1980, and they won a bronze medal. The same year she was honored as the first

Canadian to be awarded a gold medal at the International Ballet Competition in Varna, Bulgaria. She also received the rarely awarded Certificate of Exceptional Artistic Achievement.

McMaster University and the University of Manitoba presented her with honorary doctorates in 1989. A 50-minute film about Hart entitled Moment of Light: The Dance of Evelyn Hart was produced in 1992. In 2001, Hart received a Governor General's Performing Arts Award to recognize her lifetime achievement in the performing arts. She was nominated with Rex Harrington for a 2005 Gemini for Best Performance in a Performing Arts Program or Series for Veronica Tennant's A Painting of Swans, which aired on CBC TV's Opening Night. Hart received the Order of Manitoba award in 2006 and currently lives in Toronto, Ontario, where she teaches and coaches privately in addition to attending University of Toronto.

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.

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