



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:

Meredith Johnson, GodwinGroup
601-949-9986, mjohnson@godwin.com
Chantel M. Lott, USA IBC
601-355-9853, clott@usaibc.com

**2010 USA INTERNATIONAL BALLET
COMPETITION NAMES FINALISTS**

Jackson, Miss., June 21, 2010 – With the conclusion of round two of the 2010 USA International Ballet Competition, 34 of the world's finest young dancers will compete for gold, silver and bronze medals during the final round.

Round three competitors are: Senior Males: Rodrigo Almarales (Cuba), Guixien Chu (Chinese Taipei), Carlos Hopuy (Cuba), Shimon Ito (USA), Nurlan Konokbayev (Kazakhstan), Balazs Krajczar (Hungary), Kosuke Okumura (Japan), Andrei Pisarev (Ukraine), Zhang Xi (China), and Kyohei Yoshida (Japan).

Senior Females: Candice Adea (Philippines), Seo-Hye Han (South Korea), Junna Ige (Japan), Eun Won Lee (South Korea), Ekaterina Oleynik (Belarus), Maki Onuki (Japan), Cao Shuci (China), and Miki Wakuta (Japan).

Junior Males: Constantine Allen (USA), Nathan Chaney (USA), Derek Dunn (USA), Esteban Hernandez (Mexico), Ki-Min Kim (South Korea), Marcelino Sambé (Portugal), Gabe Shayer (USA), Yukihiro Tamura (Japan), and Joan Sebastian Zamora (Columbia).

Junior Females: Ji Young Chae (South Korea), Ayaka Fujii (Japan), Amanda Gomes (Brazil), Fumi Kaneko (Japan), Mariana Layún (Mexico), Alys Shee (Canada), and Patricia Zhou (Canada).

“The USA IBC is a milestone in many dancers’ careers, and advancing to the final stage of competition is an unforgettable experience,” said Sue Lobrano, USA IBC executive director. “This is when competitors realize that they’ve endured the process and the rigor of being among the world’s best.”

Round three is scheduled for June 22 – 24.

“The competition can be a stepping-stone for a dancer’s career,” said Lobrano. “Our audience is filled with artistic directors of dance companies interested in hiring new dancers, and for this reason, many leave with contracts. This is possibly the greatest prize of all.”

USA IBC medalists and award winners will be announced June 25.

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 about USA IBC, visit www.usaibc.com or join our [Facebook community](#).

###

EDITOR’S NOTE: Please visit our Web site at www.usaibc.com/media to download semi-finalist pictures.