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**2010 USA INTERNATIONAL BALLET COMPETITION  
ANNOUNCES SEMI-FINALISTS**

Jackson, Miss., June 17, 2010 – The first round of the 2010 USA International Ballet Competition concludes with jurors selecting 50 competitors to advance to round two. The USA IBC is the official international ballet competition in the United States designated by a 1982 Joint Resolution of Congress.

Round two competitors are: Senior Males: Rodrigo Almarales (Cuba), Guixien Chu (Chinese Taipei), Jean Marc Cordero (Philippines), Carlos Hopuy (Cuba), Shimon Ito (USA), Nurlan Konokbayev (Kazakhstan), Balazs Krajczar (Hungary), Angel Laza (Cuba), Miguel Montoya (Colombia), Kosuke Okumura (Japan), Andre Pisarev (Ukraine), Zhang Xi (China), and Kyohei Yoshida (Japan).

Senior Females: Candice Adea (Philippines), Diana Albrecht (Paraguay), Grace Kelly Cobian (Peru), Seo-Hye Han (South Korea), Junna Ige (Japan), Hideko Karasawa (Japan), Eun Won Lee (South Korea), Ekaterina Oleynik (Belarus), Maki Onuki (Japan), Natsuko Oshima (Japan), Cao Shuci (China), Miki Wakuta (Japan), and Naomi Yuzawa (Japan).

Junior Males: Constantine Allen (USA), Ka'imi Cambern (USA), Augusto César (Brazil), Nathan Chaney (USA), Derek Dunn (USA), Esteban Hernandez (Mexico), Dong-Woo Kim (South Korea), Ki-Min Kim (South Korea), Marcelino Sambé (Portugal), Gabe Shayer (USA), Yukihiro Tamura (Japan), Simon Wexler (USA), and Joan Sebastian Zamora (Columbia).

Junior Females: Ji Young Chae (South Korea), Emily Entingh (USA), Ayaka Fujii (Japan), Amanda Gomes (Brazil), Nanako Hayafuji (Japan), Risako Ikeda (Japan), Fumi Kaneko (Japan), Natalie Krakirian (USA), Mariana I. Layún Prado (Mexico), Alys Shee (Canada), and Patricia Zhou (Canada).

“The dancers competing in the 2010 USA IBC are very talented,” said Sue Lobrano, USA IBC executive director. “It’s always so exciting to see such a high caliber of artistic

performance and skill among our competitors. They are truly among the world's best dancers.”

Round two is scheduled for June 18 – 20. The two-week competition concludes June 24.

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](http://www.usaibc.com) or join our [Facebook community](#).

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**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Please visit our web site at [www.usaibc.com/media](http://www.usaibc.com/media) to download semi-finalist pictures.

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