

## Masters set to instruct, inspire

Indianapolis City Ballet bringing in teachers to aid its future performers



By Jay Harvey  
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Indianapolis City Ballet has scheduled six master classes during the first half of 2010 as part of the follow-up to its inaugural gala.

The fledgling organization might be more than a year away from forming a company of a dozen or so dancers, so it is focusing on being a program before it is a ballet company.

John Meehan, artistic chairman of the showcase held last September at the Murat Theatre featuring international ballet stars, has been retained as artistic adviser. A second gala is being planned for next September, also likely to be at the Murat.

In the meantime: "We'll have classes to benefit the better students in the area," said Robert Hesse, ICB chairman. "This has no basis in disparaging the teachers we have here," Hesse cautioned, adding that local dance teachers have been supportive.

"This is so they can be introduced to world-class teachers," said Jane Fortune, the organization's vice chairman.

Here's a look at the schedule of master classes (times to be announced):

**Jan. 10** -- Miguel Quinones, dancer in Parsons Dance Company, who excited the ICB gala audience in the strobe-light-assisted "Caught"; Academy of Dance Arts, 10080 E. 121st St., Fishers.

**Feb. 7** -- Louise Lester, ballet mistress with the Houston Ballet, a former principal dancer of the Bavarian State Ballet; Jordan Academy of Dance, 5144 Boulevard Place.

**March 7** -- Franco De Vita, principal, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre; Ballet Theatre of Carmel at Performer's Edge, 12955 Old Meridian St., Carmel.

**March 20** -- Gailene Stock, director of the Royal Ballet School in London and a former principal dancer with the Australian Ballet, National Ballet of Canada and Royal Winnipeg Ballet; Indianapolis School of Ballet, 502 N. Capitol Ave., Suite B.

**April 11** -- Valentina Kozlova, former principal dancer of the Bolshoi Ballet who opened her

own dance school in New York in 2003; Broad Ripple High School, 1115 Broad Ripple Ave.

**May 9** -- Larissa Saveliev, former member of the Bolshoi Ballet and artistic director and co-founder, Youth America Grand Prix; Central Indiana Academy of Dance, 14950 Greyhound Court, Suite 4, Carmel.

**June 13** -- David Howard, British-born teacher with 40 years of U.S. experience; the Dance Refinery, 8335 Shelby St.

Each 90-minute class will be followed by refreshments and a question-and-answer period. Cost is \$25 per student, \$20 for observers. For more information and reservations, visit [www.indianapoliscityballet.org](http://www.indianapoliscityballet.org).