



## Dance stars dazzle at Indianapolis City Ballet Gala

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If the first-rate quality and excitement surrounding last night's inaugural presentation by the Indianapolis City Ballet of An Evening with the Stars is any indication of things to come, then Central Indiana could be in for a unmatched cultural experience.

With the goal of garnering community support for a planned 2010 season and beyond, the organizers, headed by Artistic Chairman, John Meehan, assembled a roster of national and international guest artists representing major companies. Showcasing the geographic diversity of international ballet, the dancers electrified a highly vocal and enthusiastic audience which nearly filled the Murat Centre auditorium.



Jason Reilly & Alicia Amatriain - Photo by Gene Schiavone

Featuring both classical and contemporary works, the program was notable for its variety and surprise quotient.

Opening the program and setting an anticipatory tone for the evening was the choreography of Indy's own David Hochoy, Artistic Director of Dance Kaleidoscope. Hochoy's Fascinatn' Rhythm, with music by George Gershwin, featuring Joaquin De Luz and Tiler Peck from New York City Ballet and Sarah Lane from the (American Ballet Theatre), mesmerized the audience with its whimsy and fluid charm. Hochoy's ballet was proof as to why many consider him to be one of our city's major artistic treasures.

Though more traditional pieces such as Romeo and Juliet, Balcony Pas de Deux and Manon, Bedroom Pas de Deux, both featuring American Ballet Theatre Principals, Julie Kent and David Hallberg, showcased exceptional emotional quality and the exemplary technique of the dancers, it was the contemporary pieces which seemed to generate the most response.

Two in particular stood out. In Mono Lisa, Alicia Amatriain and Jason Reilly, both Stuttgart Ballet Principals, were powerful in their athletic, primal and sensual pas de deux. The showstopper of the evening however, was Caught. With choreography by David Parsons, and thru the use of strobe lighting, Miguel Quinones, a member of the Parsons Dance Company, created the illusion of flying through the air. Quinones' performance and the phenomenal nature of the piece brought the stunned crowd to its feet in an instantaneous standing ovation.

The bar was set very high last night for ballet in Indianapolis but one can safely presume that if any group can make it happen--- it's this organization and its list of influential financial supporters and community leaders who have the resources, passion and vision to succeed.

For more information about Indianapolis City Ballet visit <http://www.indianapoliscityballet.org/>