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Indianapolis City Ballet gala will feature reworked piece

By Jay Harvey

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When the Indianapolis City Ballet presents its inaugural gala Sept. 12 at the Murat Theatre, it will feature a new version of a popular work by choreographer David Hochoy.

Hochoy, who has been artistic director of the Indianapolis-based modern dance company Dance Kaleidoscope for 18 seasons, is reworking "Fascinatin' Rhythm" as a ballet for ICB's "An Evening With the Stars." Tickets for the gala go on sale today.

The original piece is a Gershwin tribute that Hochoy created in 2000 for DK. During the gala, it will be performed by New York City Ballet dancers Joaquin De Luz and Tiler Peck.

"I am humbled and thrilled to be invited to contribute something to the Indianapolis City Ballet's gala," Hochoy said in a prepared statement. He will rehearse the ballet with De Luz and Peck in New York.

De Luz, who was born in Madrid, began his career with the Victor Ullate Ballet Company. He joined American Ballet Theatre in 1997, then the New York City Ballet in 2003, where he is now principal dancer.

Peck, a native of Bakersfield, Calif., became an apprentice with New York City Ballet in September 2004. In early 2005, she joined the company as a member of the corps de ballet. In December 2006, she was promoted to soloist.

John Meehan, artistic chairman of the ICB, said it's too early to tell whether the engagement of Hochoy presages further collaboration between DK and the new company.

"The companies are quite different, so it's not a logical fit," he said in a phone interview Tuesday. But Meehan held out the possibility of Hochoy being involved with ICB in work that suits his interests and inclinations as a choreographer.

"He has quite an eclectic dance background, including both ballet and modern, and a pretty high profile in the dance world," Meehan said. "And he's been tremendously supportive of the new company from day one."

Depending on the success of the gala as a launching event, a 12-member touring company will be established and based in Indianapolis. It will specialize in contemporary and neoclassical ballet.

General admission tickets for the gala (\$25, \$45 and \$65) are available at www.murat.com or by calling (877) 598-8703. Tickets including a post-performance reception, which allows guests to meet the artists, are available for \$250 per person and up.

For more information, go to www.indianapolis-cityballet.org.
