

NEWS RELEASE

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Indianapolis City Ballet Announces New Master Class Series *Offers Remarkable Experience for Area Dancers*

Indianapolis, IN— Indianapolis City Ballet is excited to announce their 2013-2014 Penny and Jock Fortune Master Class Series. Since 2010, the Master Class Series has brought incomparable opportunities for area intermediate and advanced dancers. From young dancers to those ready to start their professional career, the master classes have been a source of inspiration and education.

Bringing world-renown teachers and dancers to Indianapolis, the Indianapolis City Ballet has provided an environment where dancers can grown in their art and experience different teaching styles that they may encounter throughout their dance career. They provide an opportunity for students to see and be seen by major school directors in a small, comfortable, non-audition environment. Since the start of the program, Indianapolis City Ballet has introduced 31 guest teachers to Indianapolis through 54 open classes. With classes selling out far in advance, participation has been overwhelmingly high.

“The response to our master class program from school owners and/or teachers shows that they are extremely interested in bringing this additional learning experience to their students and have been very helpful in promoting registrations,” explained Director of Marketing Elli Baker. “We have also enjoyed seeing parents from the various studios around town, get to know one another as well as their dancer and it's delightful to see students from the different schools becoming friends and attending one another's performances. Even as some have moved on to programs out of the city, they still keep in touch with all the social media. They've made friends for life and it's nice to have been a small part in making that happen.”

This year, the Penny and Jock Fortune Master Class Series guest teachers will be Gillian Murphy, Principal at American Ballet Theatre; Herman Cornejo, Principal at American Ballet Theatre; Franco De Vita, Principal at Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre; Darci Kistler, Faculty at School of American Ballet; Paloma Herrera, Principal at American Ballet Theatre; Clinton Luckett, Ballet Master at American Ballet Theatre; Allegra Kent, Adjunct Professor at Barnard College- Columbia University; Patrick Armand, Trainee Program Principal at San Francisco Ballet; Tiler Peck, Soloist at New York City Ballet; and Susan Jaffe, Dean of Dance at University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

“The Master Teachers this year, as in years past, represent diverse backgrounds and positions in the Ballet world that include directors of major international dance schools, artistic directors of studio or trainee companies, ballet masters of major companies and some of the world’s foremost principal dancers,” commented Performance and Master Class Director Jolinda Menendez. “A variety of teaching styles allow students to gain valuable experience that represent life as a professional. Additionally, the ability to work in a non-competitive environment with teachers who are responsible for, or influential in, making recruitment decisions for schools and companies, make this an even more important program for students seeking advancement – in fact some come from as far as Chicago and New York City for the chance.”

These master classes will bring students the opportunity to network with not only fellow dancers, but with

some of the highest ranking companies and schools in the world. Some students have even been offered places in the best dance schools and scholarships to summer intensives through the Master Class Series.

“Observing a Master Guest Teacher adds phrasing and mechanics to my vocabulary, which in turn, may be just the message that will spark a student's 'aha' moment—that moment when 'it' clicks and the mechanics give way to function and form and understanding,” said Lisa Love of Muncie Ballet Studio.

Because of generous donations from Penny and Jock Fortune, classes are open to intermediate and advanced dancers for a low cost of only \$30. Spectators are welcome for a cost of \$10. Each class session consists of a 90-minute technique class and 30-minute question and answer session, which offers an invaluable experience to hear from these experts and to be able to ask questions about a career and life in ballet. The question and answer sessions are also streamed free online for anyone's viewing.

Dancers and spectators can register for classes online at <http://indianapoliscityballet.org/product-category/master-classes/>.

Indianapolis City Ballet seeks to serve as a ballet center in the Midwest; to produce or present ballet works of the highest standard; to grow the marketplace for dance; to provide educational resources to the dance community and general public; to serve the people of Indianapolis and represent Indianapolis, through ballet, to the nation and beyond; and, through the artistry of ballet and the dedication of its artists, to inspire current and future generations to achieve their goals whether in or outside the dance world.

September 8, 2013- Butler - **Gillian Murphy**

September 22, 2013- The Dance Refinery - **Herman Cornejo**

September 29, 2013- Central Indiana Academy of Dance - **Franco DeVita**

November 3, 2013- Central Indiana Academy of Dance - **Darci Kistler**

January 26, 2014- Indy Dance Academy - **Paloma Herrera**

February 9, 2014- Curtain Call Studio for Performing Arts - **Clinton Luckett**

February 23, 2014- Ballet Theatre of Carmel at Performer's Edge - **Allegra Kent**

March 2, 2014- Village Dance Studio - **Patrick Armand**

March 9, 2014- Academy of Dance Arts - **Tiler Peck**

June 8, 2014- The Academy of Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre - **Susan Jaffe**

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