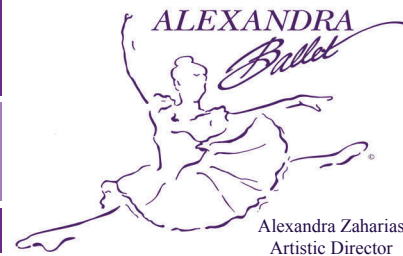


# Alexandra Ballet

*Celebrating 25 Years of Educating, Elevating, and Enriching the Community through the Magic of Dance!*

68E Four Seasons Center, Chesterfield, MO 63017 ❖ 314.469.6222



**PRESS RELEASE - June 5, 2009**

## ALEXANDRA BALLET SHINES AT REGIONAL DANCE AMERICA MID-STATES FESTIVAL

Alexandra Ballet was one of ten companies who participated in the Regional Dance America (RDA) Mid-States Festival May 14 – 16 in Anderson, Indiana. This three day festival, which represented the best of dance in the Mid-States region, provided hundreds of dancers a unique opportunity to learn from, perform for, and interact with some of the brightest leaders in the dance world today.

Each day consisted of intense ballet training with nationally renowned instructors during the day and performances by the participating companies each night. The dancers had the opportunity to take classes from George De La Pena, Kennet Oberly and Roberta Wong, just to name a few.

Michael Tevlin, Professor of Dance at University of Cincinnati, adjudicated the works by the ten companies in the region prior to festival. He critiqued each piece and determined which ones would be performed in the nightly performances. Alexandra Ballet's *Polish Suite* and *Hora Tango* were chosen to be performed.

*Polish Suite* was selected to open the festival on Thursday night. This nostalgic collection of four historical folk dances of Poland, *Polonez Chodzay*, *Kujawiak*, *Oberek* and *Krakowiak*, with traditional Polish music and costumes. The piece was choreographed by Barbara Banasikowski Smith, recipient of the Vaganova teachers certificate St. Petersburg, Russia.

*Hora Tango* was chosen to close the Gala Performance on Saturday night. This exciting original contemporary work was choreographed by long-time Alexandra Ballet colleague, Lyn Wiltshire, Associate Professor of Theater and Dance at University of Texas - Austin. The Argentine-flavored music, a newly commissioned score by Arles Estes, takes us through three exhilarating movements: Day, Night, and Dream.

The RDA Mid-States Festival provided a forum for dancers to showcase their talents, and be rewarded for their many hours of hard work and dedication. The talented dancers of Alexandra Ballet were noticed by a panel of independent judges during the scholarship audition. At the Gala Banquet on the last evening, it was announced that Alexandra Ballet First Company dancers, Dillon Malinski and Makensie Howe, were two of only five recipients of monetary scholarships.

Alexandra Ballet's commitment to excellent was obvious and their performances and dancers shined brightly amongst all the regional stars.



Makensie Howe, Alexandra Zaharias and Dillon Malinski at Gala Banquet