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ballet tech cincinnati
Gala of International Dance Stars
is a big hit!

ballet tech cincinnati, winner of the 2008 *Scripps-Corbett* Innovation Award and ONE Award Finalist, hosted its Eighth Annual *Gala of International Dance Stars* on Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009 at 8 p.m. at Cincinnati's premier venue, the Aronoff Center. Featuring 5 World Premieres by world renowned choreographers, the *best dancers* from the *best companies* and the *best choreography* in the world, the *Gala of International Dance Stars* again astonished, astounded and amazed the audience with the gravity defying athleticism, artistry and strength of the dancers, the traditional and new, on-the-edge choreography, remarkable diversity of cast, music and dance styles and the sheer joy of the experience! "Davis has purposefully tried to bring dancers who would make this feel like a 21st-century event... This year's lineup of dancers is as impressive as ever." *David Lyman, Cincinnati Enquirer* The cast of 12 fabulous dancers from 9 world renowned companies and 9 Countries brought the audience to their feet with rousing standing ovations and comments like, "My Wife and I thoroughly enjoyed it", "It was very inspirational", "The GALA Amazed Again!"

"Gala veterans [BALLETNY's] Kellye A. Saunders and Matthew Prescott [of Suzanne Farrell Ballet], she with cropped black hair and he with a shock of blond curls, always cut a commanding onstage presence. The two pieces they performed this year—"Once Before, Twice After" and Prescott's own creation, the world premier "Encantado"—held a mesmerizing, almost ritualistic quality. The pair mutually climb and intertwine in majestic sculptural forms that suggest ancient archetypes. They combine so engagingly, they often seem to become one." *Julie Mullins, Cincinnati CityBeat*

National Ballet of Canada's Sonia Rodriguez and **Aleksandar Antonijevic** returned for their fourth Gala appearance together to perform Val Caniparoli's acclaimed "Lady Of The Camellias" and George Balanchine's "Agon". "From her stuttering feet to her supple spine, Rodriguez's ethereal presence embodies perfection. Her technical prowess complements her delicate softness that was as light as her gossamer gown. The pair's complex and daring lifts, of which there were many, took off with the easy regality of birds. They made it all look effortless." *Julie Mullins, Cincinnati CityBeat*

Carolina Aguero and **Yaroslav Ivanenko** of **Hamburg Ballet** performed "Just Like That" with music from Slavonic Dances, a wonderful, exciting and virtuosic world premiere by Ivanenko, an award winning choreographer with a uniquely athletic style

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evolving out of his background as a classical ballet dancer. “Unexpected acrobatics suddenly appeared in the second act: Hamburg Ballet’s Yaroslav Ivanenko in the lively world premier of “Just Like That.” *Julie Mullins, Cincinnati CityBeat* “Invisible Grace” also by Ivanenko was an audience favorite with its imagery and exquisite delivery.

Jamal Story, COMPLEXIONS “Jamal Story’s handstand, back-flips and back-handsprings in “Solitude” [Donald Byrd choreography] from *A Gentle Prelude*. In between his tumbling and spins into oblivion set to Duke Ellington, Story also provided some of the relatively few leaps seen all evening” *Julie Mullins, Cincinnati CityBeat* Story and partner **Francesca Harper**, founder of **The Francesca Harper Project**, a New York City based company dedicated to creating groundbreaking dance, music, and theater works, also performed *Documotion: Two* choreographed by Harper to *Sub Rosa* by Gavin Bryars.

“The remarkably engaging **Alejandro Alvarez**” *David Lyman, Cincinnati Enquirer* formerly of the **National Dance Company of Spain** and **Bernard Martin** formerly of **Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal** performed World Premiere solos and a World Premiere duet commissioned by Bravo Network, all choreographed by Award winning Choreographer Shawn Hounsell. The movement was post-modern and included on-the-edge elements of various dance styles.

Drew Jacoby and **Rubinald Pronk**, partners/co-founders of Jacoby & Pronk and principal dancers with **Morphoses/TheWheeldon** Company, were formerly with **LINES Ballet** and **Dutch National Ballet**. “One,” it’s the title of the signature duet from rising-star duo, Jacoby and Pronk, who grace this month’s cover of *Dance Magazine*. For their first Gala appearance last year, Rubinald (“Rubi”) Pronk was sidelined by a last-minute injury, yet Drew Jacoby, ironically and admirably, performed their “One” duet as a solo. This year, their performances alone were worth the price of admission. The energy of their connection is palpable. They carry a delicious underlying tension in every move that builds and smolders. A fresh, almost futuristic feel permeates their dancing, but it’s anything but cold or robotic; each gesture is full of feeling and sensuality. She’s 5’11” of graceful yet grounded muscular strength tempered by an almost feline presence. He’s over 6 feet tall with flexibility beyond reason. He launches a split leap where his legs go beyond 180 degrees and he lands like a feather. (I think I overheard a fellow critic sitting near me gasp, “Holy shit,” at this point.)” *Julie Mullins, Cincinnati CityBeat*

GALA GLOBAL FARE

The Meet, Greet and eat at the **Gala Global Fare** Pre Show Reception with International Cuisine Buffet “Dinner by the Bite” sponsored by Aladdin’s Eatery, Aponte’s Pizzeria & Italian Cuisine, Dewey’s, Five Star Foodies, Kroger Marketplace, Kyoto, and Nicholson’s, was another audience favorite. Approximately 200 audience members enjoyed international cuisine, Silent Auction, and Live Jazz Music by the Hank Stephens Experience for the hour prior to the opening of the show. The Silent Auction offered dance memorabilia from current and former Gala Stars and companies, posters and additional Gala merchandise on sale in **ballet tech cincinnati** online www.ballettechcincinnati.org .

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RELEVÉ GALA AFTER PARTY

btc Contempo hosted its first **RELEVÉ Gala After Party**. All of the Gala Stars showed up and dozens of Gala patrons partied until the wee hours with them in a great opportunity to meet and mingle with the Gala Stars after the show at Via Vite on Fountain Square. Proceeds benefited **ballet tech cincinnati** community outreach and education initiatives.

SPONSORS

Macy's is the Performance Sponsor, PNC Bank is a Couple Sponsor, The Millennium Hotel is the Hotel Sponsor. WGUC 90.9 FM and The Cincinnati Herald are Media sponsors for the *Gala of International Dance Stars*. This production was made possible, in part by the support of the Aronoff Center Rental Subsidy Grant of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, the Fine Arts Fund, Ohio Arts Council, Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./US Bank Foundation, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Duke Energy, and The Robert H. Reakirt Foundation, PNC Bank Trustee. Carl Lindner, the State of Ohio and the City of Cincinnati are *Raising the Barre* Capital Campaign Sponsors. *For more information, call **ballet tech cincinnati** at (513)841.2822, email info@ballettechcincinnati.org or visit our website at www.ballettechcincinnati.org*

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The mission of *Scripps-Corbett Award* winner and ONE Award Finalist, **ballet tech cincinnati** is to educate, entertain and inspire by providing diverse and innovative performances that have a phenomenal community impact. Founded in 1997, **ballet tech cincinnati** is a non-profit 501 (C) (3) organization offering community dance classes and performances in its Kennedy Heights World Headquarters and numerous other venues including the Aronoff Center as a resident company. **ballet tech cincinnati** presents many community performances each year featuring a wide variety of pre-professional and professional dancers, dance styles and music. Last season, we served over 12,000 audience members. We have the most diverse audience of any Cincinnati area presenter, and we are the only company that presents guest companies, an international Gala, and preprofessional dancers as part of our season series. **Dance 2 Community Kids** community outreach program introduces youth from underserved communities to dance and the Aronoff Center expanding the audience for the arts and downtown Cincinnati venues. Over 1300 children have attended ballets in this outreach. *The Leaping for Literacy Project* presents an annual spring production based on beloved children's stories, Touring Company performances in area schools, free outreach performances in area libraries and bookstores, a poster and poetry contest, and a book giveaway to promote family literacy. **ballet tech cincinnati** also collaborates with Cincinnati Ballet Company, Closing the Health Gap and The West End Arts Access Initiative to extend our reach and make dance more accessible for everyone. For more information about **ballet tech cincinnati**, visit www.ballettechcincinnati.org
