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PRESENTS



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A Warm Welcome from the Founder

We welcome you to the Dance Open America Grand Prix Finals 2022! Being here with you today fills us with hope and joy.

Let us especially thank all the dancers, teachers, and school principals who have shown an interest in our event. We are honored that you have joined us in this incredible experience. Your dedication, talent, and effort are the matrix that inspires us to receive and commit ourselves.

Dance Open America is a new alternative that contributes to revealing the talent of new generations of dancers, and it is a place to unite people of all cultures and ethnicities. Our mission is to enable dancers to become skilled innovators and reach their full potential by offering them the opportunity to work with other dancers, choreographers, teachers, and directors of international prestige. Our goal is to highlight the legacy of dance as Art; preserve and develop the heritage of dance in its free expression.

In less than two years, Dance Open America has expanded internationally, raising \$600,000 in scholarship awards from schools, which have been presented to our participating dancers. We admire the generosity of these organizations that have helped us grow and expand the opportunities available for our new generation of dancers. Without this, we would not be able to fully achieve our mission and for that, we are very grateful.

For our judge panel, we proudly welcome Lourdes Lopez, Miami City Ballet Artistic Director; Dennis Nahat, International Acclaim Artist; Lee Anlin, Texas Ballet Theatre Assistant Artistic Director; Rosario Suarez; Former Principal Dancer of the National Ballet of Cuba and Ballet Master; Daryl Gray, International Acclaim Choreographer; Jennifer Kronenberg, Artistic Director Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami; Carlos Guerra, Director Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami City Ballet School Artistic Director; and Carlos Dos Santos, and Lidice Nuñez, Contemporary Choreographer.

Dance Open America is delighted to announce that the Artistic Award 2022 for Excellence and Extraordinary Career will be presented to Ben Stevenson, Texas Ballet Theater's own artistic visionary and an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.), during the Grand Prix Gala on Wednesday, May 11th, 2022 at 8PM. This performance will include highlighted dancers from the competition and the presentation of, "Star Crossed", by Ben Stevenson with its World Premiere having taken place on February 11, 2022. The audience will witness the love between two iconic characters in this simplified Romeo and Juliet story. Star Crossed is set to the Fantasy Overture from Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet score. Ben is one of the great storytellers of ballet and is known for creating splendor on stage. His choreography is both world-renowned and in high demand across ballet companies worldwide.

Thanks to our Virtual and other competitions hosted in different locations, we include to our community and welcome dancers from around the world, including the Philippines, Singapore, Japan, Mexico, Argentina, Spain, Malaysia, Italy, Cuba, Belgium Canada, Panama, Indonesia, Taiwan, Romania, Puerto Rico, Portugal, United Kingdom Venezuela and the United States.

In closing, we thank the South Miami Cultural Arts Center for the incredible opportunity to work together. To all of our supporters, we thank you for your generosity and love that you continue to show for our organization, creating memories that will last forever.

^{zerely,} Deborah Marquez



A native of Portsmouth, England, Ben Stevenson, O.B.E. began his training at the Arts Education School in London. He appeared with the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet and English National Ballet where, as a principal dancer, he performed leading roles in all the classics. During his professional career, Stevenson received numerous awards, including 3 gold medals at the International Ballet Competitions of 1972, 1982, and 1986. His contribution to ballet, as a dancer and choreographer, influences the art of ballet at an international level. In December of 1999, Queen Elizabeth 11 named Stevenson an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

Ben is a recipient of the 2000 Dance Magazine Award and was recognized in 2018 by the Chinese government as an influential foreign expert across four decades during China's Reform and Opening Up policy. Locally, he is celebrated as a Texas legend, winning the Texas Medal of Arts in 2005 for achieving greatness through his creative talents.

Mr. Stevenson is one of the great storytellers of ballet. Known for creating splendor on stage, his choreography is both world-renowned and in high-demand across ballet companies world-wide. His full length works include: The Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake, Romeo and Juliet, Cinderella, The Nutcracker, Coppelia, Don Quixote, Peer Gynt, Dracula, The Snow Maiden, and Cleopatra. As the longest-serving artistic director in Texas Ballet Theater history, Ben Stevenson, O.B.E., has been instrumental in elevating the Company from a regional troupe to an internationally acclaimed ensemble.

Since joining the Company in July of 2003, he has established himself as a prominent member of the local arts community, demonstrating his commitment to the future of ballet through education, collaboration, and his artistic vision.



Artistic Award Ceremony

Overture with All Participants of Grand Prix Dance Open America Finals Miami 2022

Composer: Johann Strauss

Spanish March

Choreography by: Anlin Li & Deborah Marquez

Carmen Suite

International Acclaimed Dancers : Adiarys Almeida, Taras Domitro.

Staged by: Sonia Calero Music: *Rodion Shchedrin*

Carmen Suite is a one-act ballet created in 1967 by Cuban choreographer Alberto Alonso to music by Russian composer Rodion Shchedrin for his wife, prima ballerina assoluta Maya Plisetskaya.

United Ballet

"Variation Grand Pas Classique"

Dancer: Alexis Workowski

Professional Artist with United Ballet Theater

Re-staging by Andres Estevez, Zoica Tovar and Joseph Gatti, after Victor Gsvosky.

Artistic Director and Company founder Joseph Gatti.

Music Composer Daniel Auber

Dance Open America has the honor to Presents all the Special Awards During our Grand Prix Miami Finals 2022



"Star Crossed"

Texas Ballet Theater

World Premiere: February 11, 2022

Choreography by: Ben Stevenson, O.B.E. Costume design by: Masako Parshall

Music by: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Dancers: Carolyn Judson, Andre Silva.

Witness the love between two iconic characters in this simplified Romeo and Juliet story. Star Crossed is set to the Fantasy Overture from Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet score.



Guest Artist



Carolyn Judson

Judson moved to Texas from California in 2001 to train at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy. She joined TBT in 2003. During her time here, she has most enjoyed performing in Ghost Dances, choreographed by Christopher Bruce, Three Preludes, Image, and the title roles in Romeo and Juliet, Cinderella, and Cleopatra, all of which were choreographed by Ben Stevenson. Judson has also had opportunities to work with Twyla Tharp and the Queensland Ballet. In her free time, she is a GYROTONIC instructor, holistic health coach, and is married to former company manager, Justin Urso, with whom she has a daughter, Evelyn and a son, Judson. Carolyn will retire after the world premiere production of Stevenson's A Midsummer Night's Dream, concluding a 19-year career with Texas Ballet Theater.



Andre Silva

Andre Silva is originally from Brasilia, Brazil, and began training at Royal Academy of Dance at age four. He continued training at The Harid Conservatory and the Ben Stevenson Academy. From 2003-2009, Mr. Silva performed several leading roles as a Texas Ballet Theater company member. He was the first recipient of the Booz Allen Hamilton International "Rising Star Award" and was a Silver Medalist at the International Ballet Competition in Shanghai. From 2009-2014, Mr. Silva joined Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal and then Germany's Ballet Augsburg. He has choreographed works for Les Grands Ballets de Montréal, Uptown Dance in Houston, and TBT's Professional Training Division and Main Company. Mr. Silva joined Texas Ballet Theater in 2003.



Guest Artist



Adiarys Almeida

Principal Guest Artist / International Ballet Star Former Principal Dancer, Cincinnati Ballet and Corella Ballet in Spain.

Also a former First Soloist of Boston Ballet and danced with the Cuban National Ballet under the direction of Alícia Alonso. She won the Silver Medal at the International Ballet Competition in Havana, Cuba in 1997 & 1998, and the Gold Medal in 1999 and 2000. Adiarys was the first Cuban female finalist at the USA International Ballet Competition in 2006. As an International Ballet Star Ms. Almeida has performed with several renowned companies, Festivals, and Ballet Galas at some of the most important stages around the world. (Assistant Director of Hollywood Ballet Academy)



Taras Domitro

Principal Guest Artist / International Ballet Star Former Principal Dancer with Cuban National Ballet and San Francisco Ballet.

Taras Domitro was nominated for Best Male Dancer at Benois de la Danse 2013. He won the Gold Medal at the World Ballet Competition in 2008, the Grand Prix Award at Peru's International Ballet Festival in 2003, and the First Prize and Revelation Award at Internacional Ballet Competition of Havana, Cuba in 2000. As an International Ballet Star Mr. Domitro has performed with several renowned companies, Festivals, and Ballet Galas at some of the most important stages around the world. (Artistic Director of Hollywood Ballet Academy)

JUDGES



Dennis Nahat International Acclaim Artist



Lourdes Lopez Miami City Ballet Artistic Director



Anlin Li Texas Ballet Theater Assistant Artistic Director



Rosario Suarez Former Principal Dancer of the National Ballet of Cuba and Ballet Master International Acclaim Choreographer



Daryl Gray



_____ Jennifer Kronenberg Artistic Director Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami



International Contemporary Choreographer



Carlos Guerra Director Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami



Arantxa Ochoa Miami City Ballet School Artistic Director



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When the power of love overcome the love of power the world will know peace

Jimi Hendrix