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BALLET FEST ATLANTA 2012

The 9th annual "BalletFest Atlanta 2012" will run Friday, March 9 through Sunday, March 11 at the Joe Mack Wilson Student Center Theatre, Southern Polytechnic State University, Marietta, GA. A third performance has been added to showcase the 22 participating companies from Georgia and surrounding states. Founder and Artistic Director, Marcus R. Alford is excited about the growth and popularity of the 9-year-old event. Alford explains, "BalletFest Atlanta 2012 gathers companies in a non-competitive atmosphere to participate in master classes for the students and performances featuring local and regional dancers. The festival promotes the art of ballet for the performers and audiences alike." An internationally acclaimed jazz dancer, teacher and choreographer, Mr. Alford is also Founder and Artistic Director of "Jazz On Tap" (the metro Atlanta Jazz and Tap Dance Festival), which is in its 25th season.

In speaking with local directors, Mr. Alford discovered a need and desire for this type of regional event. His experience on the faculties of SERBA (Southeast Regional Ballet Association) and the International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi immersed Alford in several large, regional, national and international festivals. He states, "Atlanta deserved its own festival, presenting the wealth of quality dance we have right here in our own metro area. Audiences will love the variety of ballets presented and will be thoroughly entertained with everything from Bach to the Beatles!"

The highlight of the festival will be three command performances, Saturday, March 10 at 5:00pm and 8:00pm and Sunday, March 11 at 2:00pm. Performance ticket prices are \$17.00 for adults and \$12.00 for students and children.

Master classes are open to the public and festival participants ages 9 and older on Saturday, March 10 and Sunday, March 11. David Keary, former ABT dancer and director of Ballet Mississippi will be part of the workshop's ballet faculty along with Paulo Manso de Sousa, former dancer with Miami City Ballet, and Reiko Kimura, former dancer with Pennsylvania Ballet and Nevada Dance Theatre. Modern classes will be presented by Ivan Pulinkala, head of the Dance Department at Kennesaw State University and festival Artistic Director, Marcus R. Alford will instruct the jazz classes. Classes are \$20.00 each.

All events will be held at the Joe Mack Wilson Student Center Theatre and Ballrooms, Southern Polytechnic State University, 1100 South Marietta Parkway, Marietta, Georgia. Visit www.dancefestinc.com for details and to purchase performance and master class tickets. The festival is produced by DanceFest, Inc. and Dancentre South Company, Inc. A list of participating companies follows. For interviews or further information, contact Marcus Alford at 770-516-7229





BalletFest Atlanta 2012

Participating Companies

Academy Dance Company - Marietta, GA
Academy Performing Ensemble - Norcross, GA
Atlanta Dance Theatre - Alpharetta, GA
Auburn Ballet Theatre - Auburn, AL
Ballet Tennessee - Chattanooga, TN
Bravo Dance Company - Acworth, GA
Dance Academy West Dazzlers - Douglasville, GA
Dance Contempra - Peachtree City, GA
Dancentre South Company - Woodstock, GA
DeKalb School of the Arts - Avondale Estates, GA
Downtown Dance Conservatory - Gadsden, AL
Dunbar Dance Company - Mobile, AL
Fleetwood Dance Theatre - John's Creek, GA
Georgia Ballet Student Ensemble - Marietta, GA
Georgia Christian Dance Theatre - Buford, GA
Kennesaw State University Dance Company
N.C. Conservatory of Performing Arts - Wake Forest, NC
Project Motion - Chattanooga, TN
Sawnee Ballet Theatre, Inc. - Cumming, GA
Sugarloaf Ballet - Duluth, GA
UGA Ballet Ensemble - Athens, GA
York County Ballet - Rock Hill, SC