

# CLEVELAND BALLET

GLADISA GUADALUPE | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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**For Immediate Release:**

**LEGENDARY BALLERINA AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF STATE BALLET OF GEORGIA  
NINA ANANIASHVILI TO HOST MASTERCLASS FOR  
CLEVELAND BALLET ARTISTS**

**CLEVELAND, OH** - A celebrated dancer and innovator in the world of ballet, Nina Ananiashvili will lend her artistic knowledge and teachings to Cleveland Ballet artists for an exclusive masterclass.

Ms. Ananiashvili was born in Tbilisi, Georgia. At the age of ten, she started her ballet studies at the Georgian State Choreographic School before entering the Moscow Choreographic School at the age of 13. Upon graduation, she joined the Bolshoi Ballet, eventually rising to the rank of prima ballerina.

In 1988, she was one of the first Soviet dancers to appear as a guest performer with the New York City Ballet - a feat that started her international ballet career. She also had the honor of being the first Soviet ballerina to perform with the Royal Danish Ballet in pieces by Danish ballet master August Bournonville. She has appeared with other companies including the Kirov Ballet, the United Kingdom's Royal Ballet, Covent Garden, Royal Swedish Ballet, Boston Ballet, Tokyo Ballet, La Scala Ballet and the Metropolitan Opera.

Ms. Ananiashvili became a principal dancer for the American Ballet Theatre in 1993, and in 1999 she joined the Houston Ballet with that same rank.

In 2004, former Georgian president Mikheil Saakashvili invited Ms. Ananiashvili to become artistic director of the State Ballet Company. She has added extensively to the company's repertoire and has greatly revitalized the company since undertaking the position.

Ms. Ananiashvili has been regarded as one of the greatest ballerinas of all time. She was described in the United Kingdom's newspaper *The Telegraph* as having "...alluring grace, enticing mystique, personal magic, instinctive expressiveness and the technical wizardry to draw the public with her into invoiceable passions and dreams..."

The masterclass will be at Cleveland Ballet's studio on Saturday, April 8 beginning at 10 a.m. This will be a private class for Cleveland Ballet company artists and School of Cleveland Ballet's Trainees.

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**ABOUT CLEVELAND BALLET:** From the fascinating history of dance in Cleveland starting at the beginning of the 20th century, Dr. Michael Krasnyansky, a successful Ukrainian businessman who settled in the Cleveland area, and his wife Gladisa Guadalupe, a wonderful dancer originally from Puerto Rico, have made their mission to build on the vision and business acumen of Adella Prentiss and impresario Giacomo Bernardi. Prentiss and Bernardi were instrumental in the development of Cleveland's dance audience. They were responsible for bringing one of the world's foremost ballerinas of the 20th century, Anna Pavlova, as well as the internationally famous Diaghilev Ballets Russes which performed in this city during their first U.S. tour. Today and under their artistic vision, business expertise and leadership Dr. Krasnyansky and Ms. Guadalupe have established the city's resident ballet company, Cleveland Ballet, successfully filling the void of classical and contemporary ballet. Please see <https://case.edu/ech/articles/c/cleveland-ballet> and <https://case.edu/ech/articles/d/dance> for more information.

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