

# CLEVELAND BALLET

GLADISA GUADALUPE | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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## **NEW DIRECTOR OF REHEARSALS TO JOIN CLEVELAND BALLET'S ARTISTIC STAFF**

**CLEVELAND, OH** - Timour Bourtasenkov, a distinguished choreographer and dancer, will be joining Cleveland Ballet's artistic staff for their upcoming 8th season.

Originally from Moldova, Mr. Bourtasenkov studied professionally with the Moldavian Opera House and the Bolshoi Ballet under Directors Marat Gazier and Yuri Grigorovich, respectively. Upon his arrival in the United States, he danced with Pennsylvania Ballet as a soloist and frequently danced with New Jersey Ballet as a guest artist. In 1998, Mr. Bourtasenkov joined Carolina Ballet as a Principal Dancer and founding member and began as a Principal Dancer with New York based Daring Project, led by Tony-nominated choreographer Margo Sappington and the esteemed choreographer and artist Valentina Kozlova.

His repertoire includes Marius Petipa, Lev Ivanov, Mikhail Fokine, George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Margo Sappington, William Forsyth, Richard Tanner, Christopher Wheeldon, and more. Mr. Bourtasenkov has also choreographed a number of works for Carolina Ballet, Ballet Hawaii, Infinity Ballet and New Jersey Ballet. These include *Calderiana*, *Dance of the Spirits*, *Dances for Piano and Violin*, *Elements*, *Fallen Dreams*, *Intrigue*, *Light and Dark*, *Memories*, *Rag House*, *Slavonic Dances*, *The Jungle Book*, and more.

Professionally, Mr. Bourtasenkov won the Bronze Medal in the VII Mallssako Ohyo World Ballet Competition and the 5th International Competition in Osaka, Japan and Paris, France, respectively. His movie performances include *The Long Way* and *The Magic Star* from the USSR as well as *Little Red Riding Hood* for the Sundance Film Festival in 2006. He also choreographed the dance scene from the independent film *Looking for Nick* in 2008.

From 2006 to 2009, he was an Assistant Professor with East Carolina University's School of Theater and Dance where he choreographed *Listianna*, *Provocative Monologues* and *Swan Fake*. Currently, Mr. Bourtasenkov works with American Ballet Theater as a Summer Intensive faculty member and choreographer as well as a judge and ballet instructor for Youth America Grand Prix.

"We are thrilled to have Mr. Bourtasenkov join our growing company," says Governor's Award-winning Artistic Director Gladisa Guadalupe. "He's a true visionary in the ballet world and I look forward to working with him."

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Mr. Bourtasenkov joins Cleveland Ballet during a season of high artistry and stunning ballets. The season - from season presenting sponsor Key Private Bank Wealth Management - will open at Playhouse Square's Connor Palace with *Swan Lake* on October 21st and 22nd followed by Cleveland's favorite holiday tradition *The Nutcracker* returning from December 15th to 18th. To conclude the season, the company will perform George Balanchine's *Serenade & Spring Collection* on April 21st and 22nd.

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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 has 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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