

MYKOLA KANAVETS WORKSHOP TOUR of AUSTRALIA



The Australian Ukrainian dance community is eagerly anticipating a historic event, which is set to inject it with new energy and life. Under the auspices of the Ukrainian Youth Association (CYM) of Australia and Taisa School of Ukrainian Dance, Mr. Mykola Kanevets, Artistic Director of the renowned Cheremosh Dance ensemble Edmonton, Canada will tour Australia for the purpose of holding dance workshops for Australian Ukrainian groups as well as open classes for Professional Australian dancers and instructors.

Mykola Kanevets, a professional dancer, meticulous instructor and brilliant choreographer has dedicated his life to the promotion and refinement of Ukrainian dance as both a spectacular art form and a nationalistic cultural statement.

After beginning his dance career at age seven with the Children's Dancing Ensemble at the Palace of Pioneers in Kyiv, Ukraine, he was invited to dance at the Studio of the world-famous Virsky Ensemble. In 1979, Mykola Kanevets graduated with the distinguished qualification of Ballet Master and Choreographer of the First Category from the Kyiv Institute of Culture. Following graduation, he taught various choreographic disciplines at the Kyiv Cultural College, including Classical Dance, National Stage Dance, and the Composition and Delivery of Dance.

Before emigrating to Canada and accepting the position of Artistic Director for the Ukrainian Cheremosh Society, Mykola Kanevets directed prestigious ensembles such as Ukraina, Druzba and Ychilische. Bridging the gap between the homeland and the diaspora, he challenges his dancers with the intricate footwork, demanding character and unique repertoire, just as he was challenged by the likes of Andreyev, Vasilenko, Apuhtin and Virski.

With his expertise, Mykola's short stay will be an invaluable resource for the participating groups. Unlike the Northern Hemisphere, where professionally trained instructors are readily available and indeed where such a standard is expected, here in distant Australia our limited resources are continually stretched as our audiences and performers themselves demand increasingly more from our ensembles. No one can see this need more than someone involved in the Australian-Ukrainian dance scene in excess of 35 years - Natalia Moravski, a member of the organising committee, who says of the project "this tour has been a culmination of dreams and ideas which finally have become reality. The great skills which Mykola brings will benefit the Ukrainian dance community in Australia for years to come". Of course the dreams wouldn't have eventuated without the hard work of the project committee, Paul and Peggy Kulhawec, Peter Duma and Natalia Moravski and the generosity of sponsors who have had the foresight to invest in the propagation and proliferation of our Ukrainian Culture here in Australia.

Mykola's trip is scheduled from June 27th to July 14th during which he will be assisted by Peggy Kulhawec, Artistic Director of Taisa School of Ukrainian Dance, Melbourne.

As a dancer and teacher of our unique and exciting artform, I say thank you to the organising committee and sponsors for this wonderful opportunity. To the participants - listen, learn and most of all ENJOY!

Christina Moravski

The organising committee wish to thank our sponsors for their generosity and the participating groups for their encouragement.

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Participating Dance Ensembles:

Taisa School of Ukrainian Dance, Melbourne
Verhovyna Ukrainian Youth Association Dance Ensemble, Melbourne
Lastivka Ukrainian Youth Association Dance Ensemble, Geelong,
Zahidi Dzvizi, Ukrainian School Dance Ensemble, Perth
(Anna Wityk will be attending in Melbourne)
Kashtan Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Adelaide,
Zahrava Ukrainian Youth Association Dance Ensemble, Sydney
Veselka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Sydney

Mykola will be in:

Melbourne - June 28 – July 5, 2001

Geelong – July 2, 2001

Adelaide - July 6 – July 8, 2001

Sydney - July 9 – July 14, 2001