

Sunshine Coast ballet students receive chance to dance with International Stars of Ballet



The organisers of the Sunshine Coast's favourite 10 day festival of theatre, music, literature, dance, film, art and food - the *Noosa Longweekend Festival* – are offering 12 scholarship opportunities to dancers 14 years and over to join internationally renowned artistic director, *Damian Smith* and world renowned choreographer, *Parrish Maynard* for a once in a lifetime opportunity to attend four, private ballet master classes to be held between June 19-25, 2010.

The scholarship winners are guaranteed to know their pas de deus from pirouettes and their plies from poissos as they enjoy three private classes and one public viewing class under Ballet Master Parrish's expert tutorage. They will also receive the chance to get up close and personal with seven principal, international standard ballet dancers who are performing in two, exclusive *International Stars of Ballet* Australian performances. The performances will form part of the 130 event, Noosa Longweekend Festival program to be held from June 18 – June 27.

For those unsuccessful in gaining a scholarship position, two, open master classes will be held on June 19 and 20 also facilitated by Parrish.

Noosa Longweekend Festival General Manager, Ian Mackellar said that the scholarship and open master class opportunities were the perfect example of why festivals such as the Noosa Longweekend Festival were vital to the community, providing the chance for Sunshine Coast residents to mingle with stars of the world stage and, in turn, for the coast to showcase the range of talent available in the region.

"To have dancers of this calibre with us as part of the Noosa Longweekend Festival for two exclusive Australian performances and to host these master classes is an absolute honour," Ian said.

Auditions will be held at the Noosa Professional Dance Academy, on Saturday, March 27 with finals taking place on Sunday March 28. Auditions will involve groups of up to 15 dancers taking a 45 minute class with professional ballet masters John Vye and Mark Brinkley before an adjudication panel of industry professionals. Finalists will then be asked to return on Sunday, March 28 for the final audition which will determine the 12 scholarship winners.

Potential candidates must have reached Intermediate Grade in ballet training (and no higher than Pre-professional Grade).

An audition fee of \$15 per dancer applies with applications closing on Friday March 12.

Application forms can be sourced at all leading dance Schools and academies on the Sunshine Coast, by contacting the Noosa Longweekend Festival offices on 5474 9941, or by emailing info@noosalongweekend.com.

Interested parties can register for updates on the ballet scholarships or to receive information regarding the Noosa Longweekend Festival programme on www.noosalongweekend.com

The International Stars of Ballet program is proudly presented by Netanya Resort - Noosa.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

- The 2010 Noosa Longweekend Festival will be held from Friday, June 18 – Sunday, June 27.
- The 10 day program will include 130 free and ticketed events.
- The official program launch will take place on Tuesday, April 27.
- Tickets will be on sale from 10am, May 5 at *The J* Box Office, Noosa or online at www.thej.com.au
- Interested parties are encouraged to register to receive festival news, updates and special offers on the Noosa Longweekend Festival website - www.noosalongweekend.com

-ENDS-

For more information, interviews with Noosa Longweekend Festival staff or artists or images:

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The Noosa Longweekend Festival is proudly presented by **MACQUARIE**