



## **The 2010 Hungarian National Ballet Company's Summer International**

According to Gabor Keveházi, Artistic Director of the 125 year old Hungarian National Ballet Company, the upcoming 2010 HNBC-Summer International "will grow our event in ways that will further benefit participants".

Last year's debut of the HNBC summer course and international audition was conceived as a convenience for elite dancers and directors who were looking for a good match. This year's event will incorporate other dimensions and benefits.

*"We will maintain the intensive summer course, international audition and public showcase in the Hungarian State Opera House but add values for the benefit of participants" explains international cultural manager, Gabriella Komor. "We will incorporate a competition for aspiring dancers as well as offer internships and scholarships. Last year, Director Kevehazi hosted a Directors Roundtable to discuss the effects of the current economic climate on the arts. We have expanded plans to do the same and more this year".*

**HNBC Ballet mistress and international icon Ildiko Pongor, elaborates;**



*"Last year, a talented Russian dancer was picked up by our company and we would not have had the opportunity or inclination to evaluate her without the scrutiny of the HNBCSI audition. Having access to major European companies is not easy. European Directors don't need to seek talent when we have so many dancers in house and such good schools to draw from. But, this experience has opened the eyes of our communities who see the value in our course having previously vetted and prepared the dancers for evaluation".*

**Beginning July 10, the international events will culminate in a public performance which will simultaneously act as a competition and audition.**

**Elizabeth Thiry, a young member of the HNBC and a participant in the 2009 HNBCSI, extols the merits of dancers taking part in the events:**

*"The HNBC-SI is appropriate whether you are 16 or 30; it adds invaluable cache to one's CV, offers a testing ground, grows a dancer's technique and allows decision makers to assess whether or not you will fit into their respective companies. While it was a very competitive forum, it is also an advocacy program. Whether one came away with a contract or not, the program is a unique opportunity for unseasoned dancers to see if they can make it in a professional environment, for seasoned dancers to make an impression in a new environment, for everyone to present flawlessly before decision makers and at the same time be able to take away constructive criticism. I highly recommend this program on every level!"*

**For more information, please visit [www.opera.hu/hnbcsi](http://www.opera.hu/hnbcsi)**