



NEW YORK
INTERNATIONAL
BALLET COMPETITION

New York International Ballet Competition and American Ballet Theatre

In 1996, American Ballet Theatre and New York International Ballet Competition (NYIBC) created an award to commemorate the life and work of NYIBC's Founding Artistic Director, Igor Youskevitch.

The first Igor Youskevitch Award, a one-year contract to an NYIBC participant of American Ballet Theatre's choosing, was offered that same year. The award continues to be offered at the discretion of American Ballet Theatre's Artistic Director, Kevin McKenzie.



Igor Youskevitch
Photo © King Douglas



Igor Youskevitch, Le Carnaval
Photo © Max Dupain

Igor Youskevitch is remembered for his 60-year career as a world-renowned ballet performer and teacher. He has been universally recognized and acclaimed for his monumental contribution to classical dance and to the creation of a dance audience in the United States. Mr. Youskevitch started his performing career in 1934 with Les Ballets de Paris. In 1937, he joined the Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo under the direction of Leonid Massine. He became one of the great premier danseurs with the Ballet Russes and subsequently with American Ballet Theatre. Mr. Youskevitch was a cherished partner of such legendary ballerinas as Alicia Markova, Mia Slavenska, Tamara Toumanova, Nathalie Krassovska and Alexandra Danilova. His legendary partnership with Alicia Alonso was one of the most celebrated in ballet history.

Mr. Youskevitch was a recipient of many awards, including the Dance Magazine Award in 1958, and the Capezio Award in 1990. He was the author of many articles on ballet, a choreographer, a much sought after master teacher, and most important to us, he was the first Artistic Director of the New York International Ballet Competition. In that capacity, he enriched the dance world by teaching and inspiring the New York International Ballet Competition dancers from all over the world, passing on the secrets of his art.



Igor Youskevitch coaching
Toko Yakamoto from Japan
Photo © Beryl Towbin



Carlos Molina and Monica Castro
Photo © Beryl Towbin

The first recipient of the Igor Youskevitch Award was Carlos Molina from Colombia. Mr. Molina joined Boston Ballet as a principal dancer in 2004.



Ludmila Pagliero and Cesar Morales
being coached by Martine van Hamel
Photo © Marbeth

Ms. Ludmila Pagliero from Argentina won the Igor Youskevitch Award in 2003. Ms. Pagliero is now a première danseuse at the Paris Opera Ballet.



Elina Miettinen and Evaldas Bielinis in class
Photo © Whitney Browne

Ms. Elina Miettinen, recipient of the Igor Youskevitch Award in 2007, has danced with American Ballet Theatre since January 2008.