

■ Training Ground

Paul B. Goode

The Universal Ballet  
Academy trains future  
professionals in the  
Russian tradition.

# Russian

Universal Ballet  
Academy's Yelena  
Vinogradova rehearses  
the students.

The main hall of the Universal Ballet Academy in Washington, DC is lined with photos of students and alumni. A special area is reserved for students who have earned medals—including 18 gold medals—in international and national ballet competitions, which Deputy Artistic Director Yelena Vinogradova believes allow students to receive maximum exposure to directors of ballet companies.

American Ballet Theatre soloist Michele Wiles is a good example of such success. She won the gold medal at the 1996 International Ballet Competition in Varna and most recently took top honors at the 2002 Erik Bruhn Prize, a biennial competition held in Canada.

Rasta Thomas, who attended the school on full scholarship, is another accomplished alumnus. An internationally acclaimed dancer who has performed with numerous ballet companies, he was the first American to become a member of the Kirov [now Maryinsky] Ballet in Russia. "Everything I do is refined from Vaganova training," says Thomas. "My training at the Universal Ballet Academy laid down the foundation for my career."

Wiles and Thomas are not the only UBA alumni finding fame. More than 80 percent of graduates now dance in ballet companies around the world, including the Maryinsky Ballet, Royal Ballet, Royal Swedish Ballet, San Francisco Ballet and Universal Ballet of Seoul, Korea.

Formerly known as the Kirov Academy of Ballet, UBA was established in 1990 by Oleg Vinogradov, former artistic director of the Kirov Ballet in Russia, as a high school exclusively for ballet dancers. The school is the only ballet school in America that teaches

# Style

**By Elaina Loveland**

Elaina Loveland is an editor and freelance writer in Alexandria, VA.

## JOSU GALLASTEGUI

Music for  
Ballet Class

**Mikhail Baryshnikov:**

"A superb musician with a remarkable sensitivity for ballet."

**Recordings:**



Piano Music for Ballet/  
Character Dance  
Double CD: \$32.50



Return Engagement  
77-minute CD: \$30.00

**Gelsey Kirkland:**  
"My favorite ballet accompanist."



At Your Request  
CD: \$18.00

**Allegra Kent:**  
"I feel lucky to be in class when Josu plays."

**David Parsons:**  
"Goldfingers"



Measure for Measure  
77-minute CD: \$30.00

**Aram Khachaturian:**  
"A very sensitive pianist and extraordinary accompanist."



Pas de Basque  
CD: \$17.50

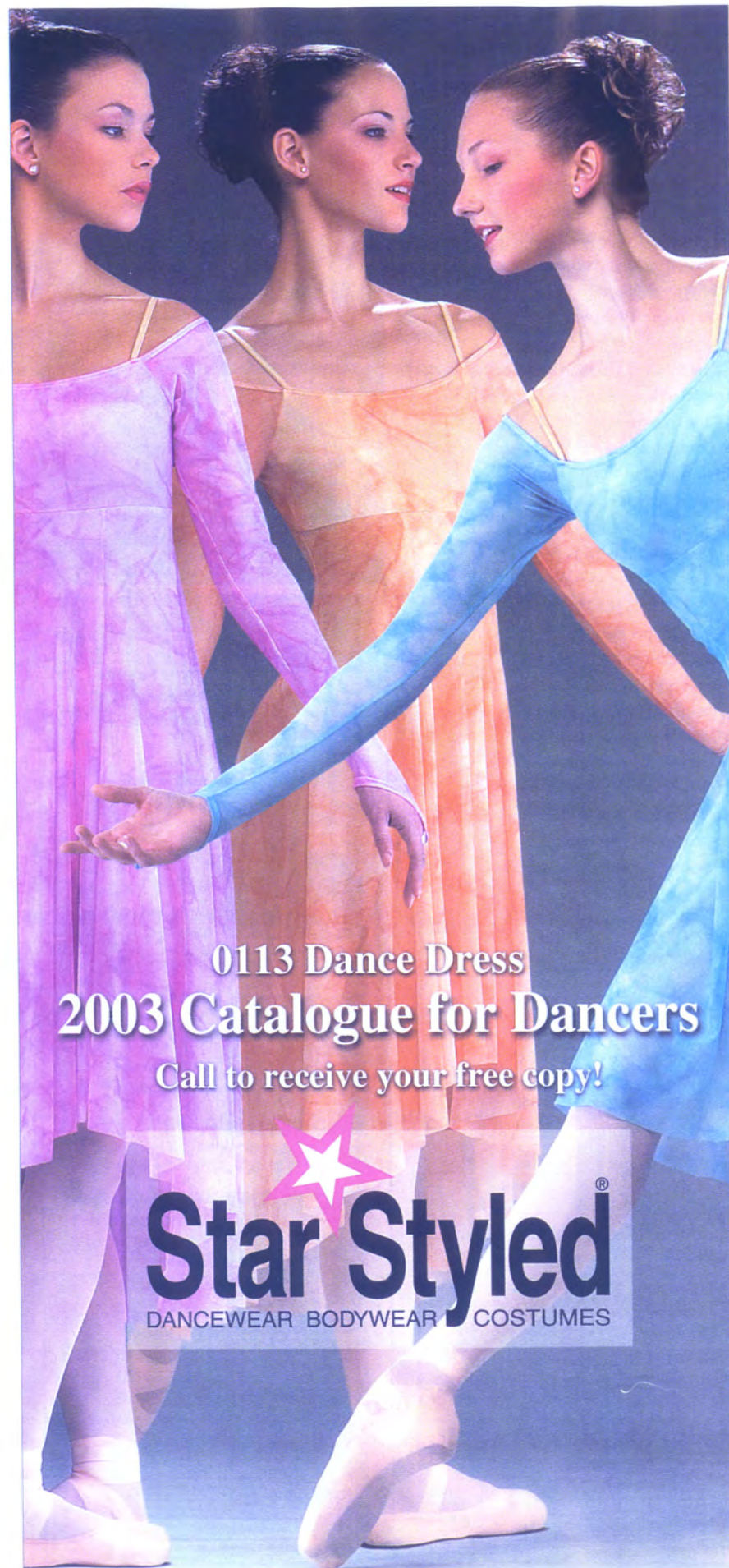
Visit [www.balletmusic.com](http://www.balletmusic.com) for complete lists of music and additional ordering information



**Now available—**  
Josu Gallastegui: My Turn  
79-minute CD: \$30.00

**Sugal Records**  
2124 Broadway,  
Suite 217, NY, NY 10023  
Tel: 212-265-8501  
Fax: 212-889-3461  
E-Mail: [sugal@aol.com](mailto:sugal@aol.com)

VISA, MasterCard,  
and American Express  
Prices include shipping



0113 Dance Dress  
**2003 Catalogue for Dancers**

Call to receive your free copy!

  
**Star Styled**<sup>®</sup>  
DANCEWEAR BODYWEAR COSTUMES



The four little swans in rehearsal

the Vaganova curriculum as it is taught at the Maryinsky Ballet Academy in Russia and has a fully accredited academic program for grades 7 through 12. Approximately 75 students ages 11 to 18 are enrolled either as boarding or day students. They hail from across the U.S. and abroad.

"The Vaganova method of teaching is a 200-year-old tradition [that] has proven to be successful in producing dancers," says Vinogradova, affectionately called "Madame V" by students and staff.

The teaching philosophy of the school is, according to Vinogradova, "to provide students with the most professional training possible to help them become ballet dancers of the highest level... Ballet is beauty, first of all."

The pursuit of beauty through ballet training at UBA is rigorous, to say the least. Students take dance classes four to five hours a day, six days per week. Classes are held in four spacious studios and are accompanied by live music. The six ballet teachers at the school— Jacqueline Akhmedova, Angelina Armeiskaya, Vladimir Djouloukhadze, Anatoli Kucheruk, Ludmila Morkovina and Alla Sizova— are internationally recognized dancers



Paul B. Goode

and master Vaganova teachers. Student Victoria Canelos, a 17-year-old from Tucson, AZ, appreciates the quality of instruction. "The teachers want you to be your best. They really care," she says.

Girls and boys' ballet classes are taught separately with no more than 15 students in each class. There are four levels of ballet technique for girls and two levels for boys. Older students have academic classes in the morning and ballet in the afternoon, while younger students have the opposite schedule. Rehearsals for performances are in the evening. Besides ballet technique classes, the dance curriculum includes repertoire, partnering, character, historical court dance, adagio, music,

**"One of the best parts of studying here is the strength you gain."**

—DANIEL ROWE, 17

ballet history and body conditioning.

"One of the best parts of studying here is the strength you gain. The classes are more intense here than at other schools," says Daniel Rowe, 17, a day student who lives in Laurel, MD, a 30-minute drive from the academy. For prospective students, Rowe has this advice: "Focus and be respectful. As long as you are focused and try your best, you'll do fine."

Most of the students at UBA board on campus, but some live in the Washington, DC area and commute. The modern facilities include dormitories, a computer lab, a student lounge, a library with an extensive dance collection and a Pilates studio. The school also has full-time resident staff to address students' needs, a full-time nurse and 24-hour security.

UBA accepts about 25 new students per year and holds auditions each year between January and March in major

Contact your local dealer today or call Toll-free: 1-866-R-POINTE (1-866-776-4683) • www.russianpointe.com • Phone: 734-975-2767

**russian • pointe®**

## World Class Shoes for World Class Performers

Hand-built  
construction for extended  
performance life

Timeless  
design with a classic  
Russian heritage

A custom fit  
shoe for every foot





Students display Kirov style in biannual performances.

Piccolo Galli

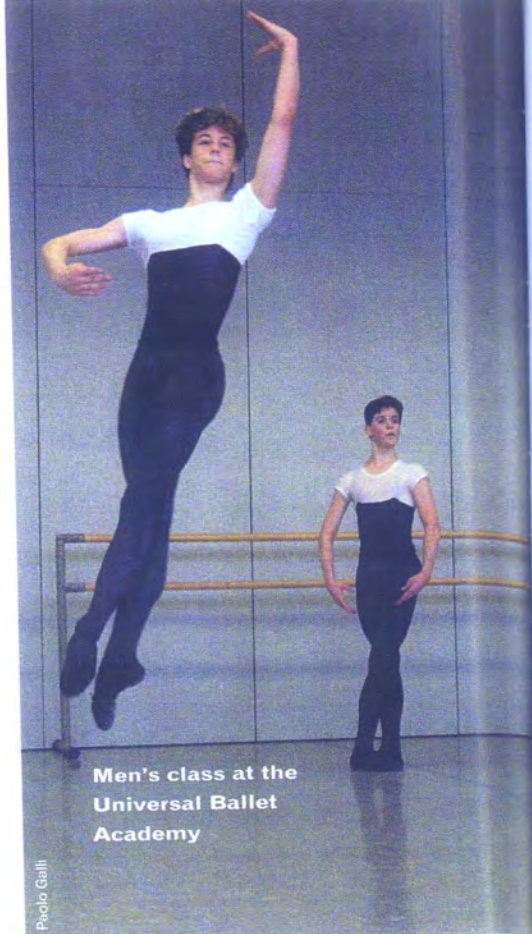
cities throughout the U.S. Approximately 1,000 audition for the school annually. The academy's summer session, which offers intensive ballet training six days per week, is mandatory for students interested in studying year-round. At auditions, Vinogradova looks for the combination of "natural talent and physical ability" in prospective dancers. Scholarships are available, ranging from 25 percent of the cost of attendance to 100 percent for the

most promising students.

UBA students give performances twice a year in a converted chapel, performing classical repertoire and wearing costumes from the Kirov Ballet or copies based on original Kirov designs. Because the school emphasizes the same technique taught at the Vaganova Ballet Academy in Russia, students learn repertoire by Petipa and are coached in the Kirov's performance style. The Kirov legacy includes such celebrated dancers as Nijinsky, Nureyev, Makarova and Baryshnikov.

Continuing the legacy of the illustrious Kirov Ballet is at the heart of the UBA mission but, most importantly, the faculty and staff hope to inspire students to reach their highest potential and fulfill their dreams. "After all," Vinogradova says, "the most happiness in life [comes from doing] something you are talented in."

For more: [www.universalballetacademy.org](http://www.universalballetacademy.org)

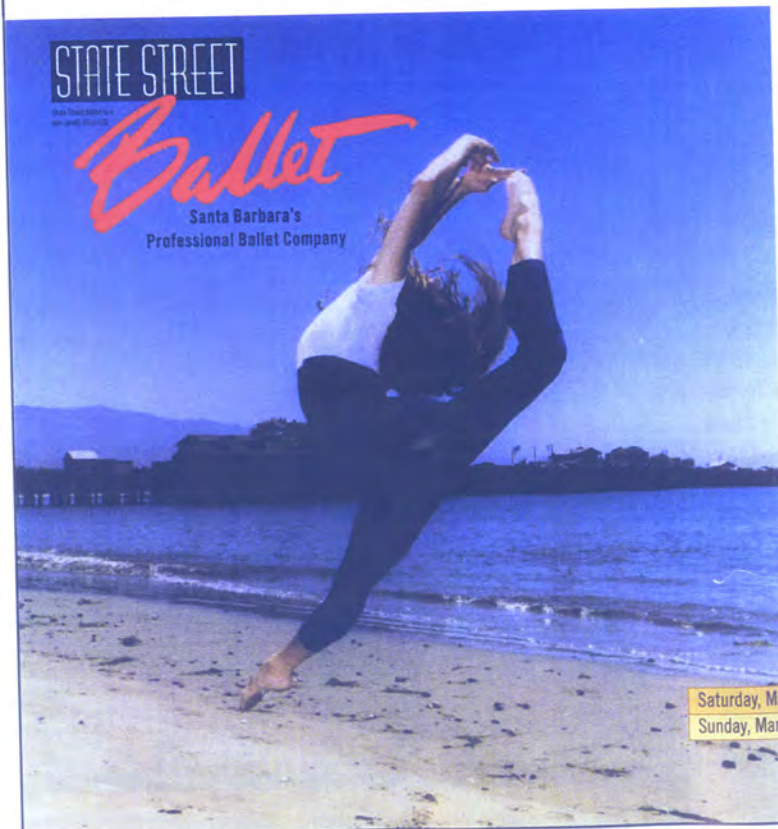


Men's class at the Universal Ballet Academy

Piccolo Galli

# SUMMER INTENSIVE 2003

June 23-July 20



Directed by State Street Ballet Artistic Director, **Rodney Gustafson**, this professional workshop offers the scenic beauty of the Pacific Ocean at our doorstep combined with excellent instruction in classical dance. Supervised housing available.

### Curriculum

Pointe, Variations, Pas de Deux, Character, Jazz, Choreography, and Performance. Nationally acclaimed instructors.

State-of-the-art studios located at:  
322 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

More about us online at [statestreetballet.org](http://statestreetballet.org).

For information and brochure call (805) 965-6066 or send an email to [ssbdance@aol.com](mailto:ssbdance@aol.com).

### 2003 AUDITION SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 8	3:00-5:00 p.m.	State Street Ballet, Santa Barbara
Sunday, March 9	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Cal State Long Beach Dance Department