

2010 The 5th Annual International Folk Dance Competition

Panel of Judges

(1) Caroline Hoadley of Walhalla, South Carolina Dance Artist & Educator

A lifelong performer and teacher for over 30 years, Ms. Hoadley has been a member of the South Carolina Arts Commission's Artist Roster since 1993 providing Dance Residencies in schools. She is a Choreographer and master teacher in a variety of dance genre, and is the director for the Moving Company, a professional dance performance troupe which currently performs Bavarian/Austrian dances (as the Walhalla Oktoberfest Dancers), Appalachian Clogging, Irish dance, Historical dances, and the Carolina Shag. The troupe has been selected to be filmed in ETV documentaries about upstate SC culture, and performance venues include BMW National Oktoberfest, Myrtle Beach Oktoberfest Piccolo Spoleto in Charleston, SC State Museum and with the Clemson Orchestra.

Ms. Hoadley is also a Southern Arts Federation Artist, and certified member of Dance Educators of America, as well as a K-12 certified specialist in Dance Education. She has taught dance for over 30 years in studios, schools, and colleges. As a former studio owner for 13 years she designed technique classes and produced over 40 shows and concerts. Many of her former students have gone on to dance professionally. She judges dance competitions, and trains dancers privately.

Currently, she is also a Kennedy Center-trained Teaching Artist, providing teacher training in arts integration through dance. She now publishing a series of books which are social and folk dance lessons for classroom teachers and specialists, the first of which is titled, "Carolina Shag - the Spirit of Southern Social Dance" and will be released this spring.

(2) Eric Nielsen of Valdosta, GA Professor and Department Head, Valdosta State University

Eric Brandt Nielsen is a full professor and program head in the Communication Arts Department at Valdosta State University. Professor Nielsen holds a B.F.A. in theatre and an M.F.A. in modern dance choreography from the University of Utah. He created the dance emphasis program at VSU in 1986 and was the founding director of the VSU Repertory Dancers.

Besides teaching on the college level for thirty-one years, Professor Nielsen is also a professional dancer, choreographer and director. His performance experiences range from classical ballet companies throughout the U.S.A. to show dancing at the M.G.M. Grand Hotel in Reno, Nevada. 2007 marks his thirty-second consecutive professional summer stock season as a director/choreographer.

Professor Nielsen was the Southeastern Theatre Conference's auditions choreographer for eighteen years. As an author, he has had numerous articles published and wrote the award winning book *DANCE AUDITIONS: Preparation, Presentation and Career Planning*.

Professor Nielsen has been on two faculty exchanges in Russia, China, and Hungary, and taught on the summer studies abroad program in Great Britain in 2004 and 2006. A documentary on his first exchange is entitled *DANCING ON A JEWELLED EGG: The First American Dance Faculty Exchange in Syktyvkar, Russia*. A documentary on his residency in China, entitled *ERIC'S YANGZHOU STAGE*, was produced and telecasted in Yangzhou, China.

In 2003, he was honored with the Dance Educator of the Year Award from Georgia's Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

**(3) Dr. Caroline Joan (Kay) Picart of Tallahassee, FL
DanceSport Champion, Scholar, Artist, Radio Show Producer and Host**

When scholarly works are combined with the love of art and stage performance, the results are nothing less than stellar. Dr. Caroline Joan (“Kay”) Picart grew up in the Philippines; her father has a Filipino-French-American ancestry, and her mother, a Filipino-Chinese-Spanish background.

Kay has had 14 years of ballet training, and has been competing and teaching ballroom dance since 1991, across Cambridge, England; Seoul, South Korea, and various parts of the US. Among her coaches in theatre arts/cabaret were undefeated world champions Vivienne Ramsey, Victor da Silva and Hannah Kartunnen, Michael Chapman, and Bruno Collins. Although she began training and competing in theatre arts/cabaret only in 2005, she has been dancing ballroom since 1991 initially in Cambridge, England, and then in Seoul, South Korea, to various parts of the U.S. She has also had some training in Hawaiian, Philippine and South Korean folk dance. In 2006, after being consistently ranked among the top three nationally for close to two years (with three different partners), she won the US Open Cabaret pro am theatre arts/cabaret (a mix of ballroom, ballet and gymnastics) championship, where 40 countries participated, and among the very best in the world competed. She is the first Filipina to win this title, and her love of dance and movement, is a primary influence upon her work as an artist and a scholar.

As an artist, her work has been sold, exhibited, and featured at various galleries and events in the Philippines, South Korea, England, and various parts of the U.S. Several of her pieces are owned by UNICEF. She was the first Filipino woman painter to have an exhibit in Seoul, South Korea in September, 1992, and founded a group, the International Artists and Poets Society when she was in Seoul from 1992-1993. Kay has also worked on integrating her visual art with her interests in ballroom dance and in autoethnographic and creative non-fiction. She has produced numerous video shorts, all through grants from the Institute of Race & Ethnicity, University of Wisconsin; the Pennsylvania State University; St. Lawrence University; Florida State University, and Swarthmore College, among others.

From 2002-2008, she directed, scripted and performed in an annual TV program for FSU's International Center, “Ballroom and Beyond,” which used dance as a means of exploring and celebrating cultural diversity. As someone who believes that the joy of dance as an art form should be shared, Kay has performed for various local and national fundraising benefits. When she has been invited to do so, she has done volunteer dance classes with high schools and organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, and has also contributed art to various local philanthropic efforts. In 2005, Dr. Picart built her own company, KINAESTHETICS, LLC which moves across the production of visual art and dance; its latest offshoot, in 2008, is the successful Dr. Caroline (Kay) Picart Show,” which gained over two million listeners, nationally and internationally, in nine months of live programming before she closed the show to start law school. Currently, Kay is a JD candidate at the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

As a [scholar](#), Kay is a philosopher and former molecular biologist educated in the Philippines, Cambridge, England, and the U.S. She is the author of 14 published or forthcoming singly written or co-authored

books on philosophy and literature, film, and cultural studies as well as numerous academic and popular journal articles. Some of her favorite topics include ballroom dance's quest to become an international Olympic sport, and how ballroom dance is depicted in movies.

Kay has taught in the Philippines, England, South Korea and various parts of the U.S. in the fields of Biology, Philosophy, Film and English for 21 years.

(4) Henry Hernandez of Tallahassee, FL Founder, Artistic Director and Ballet Master

Mr. Henry Hernandez is the founder, Artistic Director and ballet master for his own dance company, World Ballet, Incorporated which he opened in 2008 in Tallahassee, Florida. He has a long and talented career as a principal dancer who has danced worldwide and choreographed both classical and contemporary dance for major dance companies.

While ballet is his chosen dance style, he is well trained in national folk dance. Starting at age 15, Mr. Hernandez obtained his initial dance training in the Vagonova method at the Ballet Teresa Carreño in Caracas, Venezuela, and studied under Ninel Juljtieva, Nina Novak, Vicente Nebrada and José Parés. Flamenco was his first dance style but as required under the Vagonova method or training, he soon learned and mastered every style of international dance.

Alongside his brother, Mr. Hernandez then trained and danced with the famous Yolanda Moreno Danzas Venezuela Company, which continues today as the number one folk ballet company in Venezuela and is recognized throughout the world for its study, training, and performing of Danzas nacionalistas of a variety of countries of which Mexico, Spain, Peru, as well as Venezuela are only a few.

Mr. Hernandez went international with his training and dancing when he subsequently joined the Ballet Royal de Wallonie in Belgium. There, he toured Europe and Asia performing in major ballet classics. During his career, he shared the stage with the likes of Rudolph Nureyev, Vladimir Vasseliev and Ekaterina Maximova. Coming to the attention of a new growing dance company, the Southern Ballet Theatre in Orlando, Florida, now known as Orlando Ballet, Mr. Hernandez was invited to join as a principal dancer and stayed for 10 years. While there he added to his extensive repertoire of such great classical works as *Don Quixote*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Giselle*, *Le Corsair*, *La Bayadere* and *La Sylphide* to name a few; a new Ravel's Bolero Ballet choreographed by Rosita Segovia of the National Ballet of Spain along with contemporary works of twentieth century masters such as George Balanchine and Vicente Nebrada.

(5) Kristia Kaufman of Valdosta, Georgia

Kristia studied Classical Ballet Performance at the University of Oklahoma and is experienced in numerous styles of dance. She has had formal training in classical ballet, pointe, jazz, tap, modern dance, contemporary, and clogging. She has also received instruction in belly dancing, lyrical, and ballroom. She participated in the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts program and attended several professional Dance Master classes, such as Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Louisville Ballet, and Dance Theater of Harlem.