

## Local Ballet School Hosts Famous Dancer/Choreographer

EDMOND, OKLAHOMA-- Internationally-known dancer and choreographer Ma Cong, of Tulsa Ballet, will be making a rare appearance in Edmond to teach several master classes at Academy of Ballet and Theatre Arts. The classes are part of a year-long master class series at the ballet studio, and will take place on Sunday, Oct. 11.

"I am so honored that Ma has agreed to come teach at my school," said Lisa Webb, Director of Academy of Ballet and Theatre Arts. "We have been friends for years and it is exciting to see not only his dancing, but also his choreography gaining respect around the United States. He is incredibly gifted and I know his instruction will inspire the students."

Originally from Yu Xi, China, Cong is a Principal Dancer with Tulsa Ballet, and has been a member of the company since 1999. He has also recently been named the company's Resident Choreographer. Cong has performed leading roles in productions such as *Carmen*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *Fingerprints*. Tulsa Ballet is not the only company performing his choreographic works. He has set ballets on multiple companies--Houston Ballet, Ballet Met, Ballet Florida, Smuin Ballet, Richmond Ballet, and Ballet Nouveau Colorado being some of them.

Webb makes it a priority to schedule monthly master classes for her students, so that they can experience the instruction of other teachers. Jenna McCoy, 15, is in the highest division at Academy of Ballet and Theatre Arts, and will be attending Cong's classes.

"I have always admired Ma Cong's dancing. He shows so much energy and passion when he dances. I am so excited to have the privilege to take a master class with him," said McCoy.

The ballet technique class for beginning and intermediate students is from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. The same class for intermediate and advanced students is from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cong will also teach his original choreography to the intermediate and advanced students from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Ballet students from other studios are welcome to attend in addition to the students of Academy of Ballet and Theatre Arts. The cost per class is \$30.

For more information regarding master classes or the Academy of Ballet and Theatre Arts, contact Lisa Webb at (405) 752-1422 or visit [www.abtaonline.org](http://www.abtaonline.org).

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