



**For Immediate Release:**

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**Canton Ballet's Catazaro Joins New York City Ballet**

Canton Ballet artistic and executive director Cassandra Crowley announces the promotion of the ballet company's alumnus dancer Zachary Catazaro Clark to corps de ballet member with the prestigious New York City Ballet effective this fall. Catazaro, who uses that as his stage name, will arrive in Canton this week for a 10 day visit. He will teach a master class at the School of Canton Ballet on Friday.

Catazaro was an apprentice dancer with NYCB for one year. For the previous year he was on full scholarship in George Balanchine's School of American Ballet, known as SAB, founded in the 1930's.

Crowley, who has seen many of her former dancers join professional dance companies, was asked how she feels about her first NYCB designate: "I am very proud of Zachary and how he has moved through SAB to a position with City Ballet. He has been a fine model for the young men coming up through Canton Ballet. It is wonderful having him back to work with our dancers."

Catazaro trained for 14 years at Canton Ballet. He is the son of Jennifer Catazaro Hayward, assistant to the artistic director. His last performance

with Canton Ballet was in the role of the Cavalier in the ballet's 2005 *Nutcracker*. In the summer of 2006 he left for New York City where he presently resides.

NYCB, now under the artistic direction of Peter Martins, was founded by Balanchine and Lincoln Kirsten in 1948, with Balanchine as its longtime artistic director and choreographer. The company is in permanent residence at New York City's Lincoln Center, home also to the Metropolitan Opera and the New York Philharmonic.

Canton Ballet, comprised of a preprofessional company and the School of Canton Ballet, is located at the Cultural Center for the Arts at 1001 Market Avenue N. in Canton. It receives funding support from Arts in Stark and the Ohio Arts Council and is a member of OhioDance and Regional Dance America.

For further information contact Deby Barath, manager, at the Canton Ballet office at 330-455-7220 or [debybarath@cantonballet.com](mailto:debybarath@cantonballet.com).

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With an annual budget of \$600,000 dollars, Canton Ballet is the state's largest pre-professional ballet company and its school ranks among the three largest pre-professional dance-training centers. Since its inception in 1965, Canton Ballet has produced over 130 premieres and has been an honor company in Regional Dance America since 1983. It has also developed a series of educational and outreach programs that serve 5,000 people annually, as well as the Kerri Hunter Minority Scholarship program that provides full tuition for talented minority and underserved youth. Canton Ballet is funded in part by the Ohio Arts Council and Arts in Stark.