



## Greek Excursion 2010

The Ballet Departments' *Character Dance Ensemble* (CDE), has been invited to perform in Athens, Greece - May 2010. After a successful residency last spring with the world renowned ballet star **Irek Mukhamedov**, who now serves as Artistic Director of the GNB (Greek National Ballet), an invitation was extended for CDE to visit the GNB (Greek National Ballet) for a series of classes, workshops and lecture demonstrations, and to perform at the *Dora Stratou Festival*. This invitation continues to fulfill the Department of Ballets' long commitment to cultural exchange and artistic development.



The Character Dance Ensemble is a group of dedicated ballet majors from the Department of Ballet at the University of Utah, who are also completing a specialized emphasis in the art of character dance. Character dance is stylized folk or ethnic dance for the ballet stage. The Ensemble's mandate is varied. Its' mission is to first provide dancers with academic and performance-related opportunities in different dance styles from around the world. This is important for the development of versatile dance technique. Another important aspect is to enrich the student experience through travel and cross-cultural interaction.

The proposed Greek Tour will cost approximately \$34,000. Our department is pursuing funding from inter-university sources; and the dancers themselves continue to raise funds as they have for past tours through activities, which include performances, children's workshops, and silent auctions.

We are requesting financial support to continue this groups' progress and to further implement our mission. This is a wonderful opportunity to represent the Department of Ballet and the University of Utah; and we are requesting your kind support. The University is a non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

On behalf of the Department of Ballet and the *CHARACTER DANCE ENSEMBLE*, I would like to express to you my sincere appreciation for your consideration and support. If you have any questions regarding this excursion, please contact me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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