

Dominic Walsh Dance Theater

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HOUSTON—Italian native Domenico Luciano, lead dancer with Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, was honored once again for his achievements in dance. The International Trade & Show Dance Event organized by Danzainfiera was held February 26 to March 1, 2010 in Florence, Italy when “L’Italia che Danza” (Italy that Dances) awarded Luciano with the “Premio Giovani Talenti” (Award for Young Talents). Mr. Luciano traveled to Florence to accept the award and perform the duet from Matthew Bourne’s *Swan Lake* with fellow Dominic Walsh Dance Theater dancer Ty Parmenter.

The Minister of Culture, Italian Government, Region of Tuscany, Province of Florence, and City of Florence also participated as Patrons of the Award.

Luciano has truly thrived as a great dancer throughout his career, winning the Leonide Massine Award in Positano, Italy in 2003, being voted “Best Dancer” by the *Houston Press* in 2008, and recently named by *Pointe Magazine* as one of twelve dancers to be recognized as a 2009 “Standout” for his portrayal of the Swan in Bourne’s *Swan Lake*. Some notable names he shares the honor with include Alina Cojocaru (Royal Ballet), Natalia Osipova (Bolshoi Ballet), and Marie-Agnès Gillot (Paris Opera Ballet Étoile and his partner in Dominic Walsh’s *The Firebird*).

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“Domenico is one of those rare artists whose dedication to the craft is infectious, and through example, leads his peers to become more committed artists. He is forever searching and researching, whether it is his classical technique, contemporary movement vocabulary, or an artistic interpretation in the many roles he has danced. He is equally riveting as the title role in *Titus Andronicus*, W.A. Mozart in *The Trilogy*, or the Swan in Bourne’s *Swan Lake*. Domenico is an amazing asset to our company and we are all very proud of his achievements and his continued contributions to the dance world,” states Founder/Artistic Director Dominic Walsh.

“I first heard about being awarded in November 2009, when I was guesting with Teatro San Carlo in Naples for a gala and *The Nutcracker*. I think it was probably during ballet class. It is very rewarding to know that even though I am developing my career in the U.S., my country still appreciates me and all of my achievements. I have so many friends who are dancing outside of Italy and when they get back home, nobody knows who they are and all the amazing things they have done,” says Luciano.

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Photo credits (top to bottom): Domenico Luciano photo by Gabriella Nissen Photography. Domenico Luciano in Bourne’s *Swan Lake* photo by Gabriella Nissen Photography.

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Domenico Luciano from Naples, Italy joined Dominic Walsh Dance Theater in 2005. Having made his American debut with Tulsa Ballet in 2004, Mr. Luciano studied at the Teatro di San Carlo Ballet School in Naples Italy, and danced with various companies in Europe as a Principal Dancer including Europadance in France, Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Germany, Teatro Comunale in Florence, Teatro Dell’Opera in Rome and Teatro di San Carlo in Naples. His repertoire includes many of the classical principal leads such as Romeo, Paris, and Benvolio in both Sir Kenneth MacMillan and John Cranko’s *Romeo & Juliet*; Paris in Amedeo Amodio’s *Romeo & Juliet* with Eleonora Abbagnato, Principal Dancer with Paris Opera Ballet; Solor in *La Bayadere*, The Prince in *The Nutcracker*, and Albrecht in *Giselle*, all by Derek Dean; *In the Night* by Jerome Robbins; Onegin in John Cranko’s *Onegin*; Roland Petit’s *Ma Pavlova* with international ballerina Lucia Lacarra; and Don Jose with the National Ballet of China in *Carmen*.

Mr. Luciano also excels in his contemporary repertoire which includes George Balanchine's *La Valse*; Nacho Duato's *Jardi Tancat* and *Without Words*; Orfeo in Carole Armitage's *Orfeo ed Euridice*; and Mauro Bigonzetti's *Mediterranea*. Also with Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, he performed the American premiere of Bigonzetti's *Pression*, Michele Merola's *With Painted Lips*, Enrico Morelli's *Funabula*, Gustavo Ramirez Sansano's *Dicese*, and Jiří Kylián's *Double You*. Dominic Walsh has created many roles especially for Domenico including *Le Spectre de la Rose*, Desire in *Sleeping Beauty*, Tybalt in *Romeo & Juliet*, *I Napoletani*, *Terminus* and the title roles in *Titus Andronicus* and *The Trilogy: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart* for which he also designed the costumes. Since 2005, Mr. Luciano has danced in all of the company's tours to Mexico, Italy, Spain, Greece, Romania, Florida, New York, Iowa, and Kansas. In 2003, he received the Leonide Massine award in Positano, Italy as Best Male Dancer of the Year and in October 2008, he was named "Best Dancer" by the *Houston Press*. He also made his choreographic debut in 2008, co-creating *The Nutcracker* with Walsh for Ballet Quad Cities. More recently, he performed the coveted role of the White Swan in the White Swan pas de deux from Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake*, Walsh's *For the Two of You*, and Walsh's tour de force *The Firebird* with Paris Opera Étoile Marie-Agnès Gillot.



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