

Cheremosh Artistic Director receives RISE award

(Cheremosh/UkrNews)—The members and dancers of the Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Company and the Ukrainian Cheremosh Society are pleased to announce that Artistic Director and Ballet Master Mykola Kanevets received a RISE award on May 7.

The RISE (Recognizing Immigrant Success and Excellence) Celebration 2009 recognizes the achievements of immigrants in Edmonton as well as individuals and organizations that support and improve immigrant lives. This event is hosted by the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers and is sponsored by numerous Edmonton businesses. The event has taken place annually since 2003.

Kanevets was recognized for his contribution to arts and culture in Edmonton through his work with the Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Company and the Cheremosh School of Dance.

Mykola joined the Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Company as Artistic Director in 1991. Since that time he has produced four full length touring Ukrainian dance shows which have played to audiences in North America, Scotland, and China.

His work and instruction has helped Cheremosh soar to new heights — his spirited passion, vibrant choreography and strong sense of discipline have brought Cheremosh phenomenal success as a semi-professional



Mykola Kanevets at the awards ceremony.

Ukrainian dance company.

Over the years, Mykola has created and staged numerous dance programs, such as Cheremosh's western Alberta Tour (1992-1993), Cheremosh's participation at the International Youth Festival in Aberdeen, Scotland (1996 and 2000) and the International Folk Dance Festival in Idaho (2002). Mykola also choreographed Cheremosh's 30th Anniversary tour production "New Beginnings" (1999), as well as, "Cheremosh... Revolutions!" (2005) and "Canadian Dance Steps:

Journey to the Great Wall" in 2007.

During his years as Chair of the Choreographic Department of the Kyiv Cultural College, Mykola also taught various choreographic disciplines, including classical dance, national stage dance and the composition and delivery of dance.

During his studies, Mykola had the opportunity to develop his dancing skills with the world famous Virsky Studio where he traveled throughout Europe with them. This experience, along with the training he received from such Ukrainian dance icons as Apukhtin, Virska, Zaitsev and Vasylenko, allowed him to refine his ability and expand his creative horizons.

A native of Kyiv, Mykola attended the National University of Culture and Performing Arts in Kyiv, Ukraine where he graduated from the Faculty of Choreography with the distinction of Ballet Master and Choreographer.

In June 2001, Mykola received the City of Edmonton's prestigious Arts Achievement Award. The award recognized his dedication and achievements as Cheremosh's Artistic Director and was a testament to his hard work and unsurpassed choreography.

After nearly 20 years with Cheremosh, Mykola's influence on the North American Ukrainian dance community continues to flourish.