

ZABAVA • Russian Dance

Representation: **OVATION! Management**

Blanche Artis Lewis

6161 N. Hamilton • Chicago, IL 60659-4220 • 773-338-4182

BIOGRAPHY

Zabava means “entertainment” or “fun” in Russian and that is what this exciting folk dance troupe offers. The company has performed throughout the former Soviet Union and also toured Libya, Germany, India, and Spain. Zabava was awarded first prize in the international folk dance competition sponsored by Spanish television and subsequently performed over 60 concerts in Spain.

The costumes are handmade and authentic to the region portrayed in each dance. The musicians play on instruments representative of a centuries old tradition such as: cymbalon, bayan, balalaika, ocarina. and, incredibly, hollowed shafts of wheat! All are virtuosi.

Zabava first came to the United States in April of 1994, representing Russia at the world cup soccer championship games and were seen worldwide on international television. Upon their return from Russia in February, 1995, the group was invited to perform at Epcot Center, Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Zabava was asked to perform for the Russian diplomatic community in New York in 1996. Highlights of their 1997/98 season included their appearances in Guatemala at the fourth international festival where their performances received great acclaim - so much so that the president of that country came to view them at the second performance.

Zabava has toured throughout the United States garnering standing ovations wherever they appear. They regularly present special performances for students k-12 in schools located in and around Chicago. They have been featured at the Chicago dance festival, Chicago cultural center, Beverly Arts Center, and at benefits for the Chicago symphony, Evanston Arts Center, Arts & Cusiness Council, and at corporate and foundation events. Zabava recently performed for the international visitors' center where governor George Ryan of Illinois was guest of honor. their 2001/2002 season included a tour of Virginia and Tennessee.

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Reviews

“high powered dancing presents an overview of folk dances in the acrobatic style of the Moiseyev. Performers' exquisitely intricate costumes are as colorful as their dancing.”

This Month in Dance

“Zabava Folk Ballet of Russia served up joyously athletic folk dance with its pyrotechnic bag of tricks.”

Chicago Tribune