

## Canada's National Ballet School Announces Partnership with Ryerson University's Faculty of Communication & Design

May 10, 2012...Canada's National Ballet School is pleased to announce a new partnership launching with the Faculty of Communication & Design at Ryerson University. Beginning in Spring 2012, the two educational institutions will participate in projects designed to encourage cross-discipline collaboration and communication between students, faculty and institutions.

The focus of the first two projects of the collaboration involves the upcoming Assemblée Internationale 2013 (AI 13), a festival produced and hosted by Canada's National Ballet School. The event, which is the second of NBS' Assemblée Internationale festivals, occurs April 28 – May 4, 2013, bringing 19 of NBS' international partner schools to NBS for seven days. During this week students will participate in blended classes and rehearsals and will present performances and attend a final closing conference. New for this AI is the Live Streaming presentation, for which NBS Artistic Faculty member Shaun Amyot will work with Amsterdam-based choreographer Michael Schumacher. The two will jointly choreograph a work; students in both Toronto and Amsterdam will perform it simultaneously, in real time, interacting with each other through a live-feed projected on the stage in each venue. Faculty, staff and students from the RTA School of Media and the RTA Transmedia Centre will work closely with NBS prior to and during the AI 13 in providing state-of-the-art technical resources to transmit the collaborative Live Streaming presentation globally. Transmission of the project will be done through an ultra-high-speed bi-directional internet connection, a technology currently being co-developed by industry and the university.

The second project will roll out during the lead-up to the AI 13, as well as throughout the festival. Faculty and students from the Image Arts school of Ryerson's Faculty of Communication & Design will create a "behind-the-scenes" documentary of the AI 13 experience, from the planning stages of the festival through to its performances and conclusion. Having successfully initiated the Assemblée Internationale concept in its 2009 incarnation, NBS anticipates the expanded version in 2013 will only increase the networking opportunities and international connections that grow out of the festival experience. One of the comments heard following the AI 09 was the desire for an opportunity to reflect upon all the festival had presented and the chance to re-watch the performances and presentations. This collaborative documentary is a result of such comments.

"NBS prides itself on providing our students with the opportunity to develop skills relevant to creating innovative projects while gaining insight into the day to day business of arts organizations, our collaboration with Ryerson is an exciting example of how we do that. Allowing our students the opportunity to work with and observe Ryerson students as they create this documentary will be a thrilling opportunity for NBS students of all ages. Great art is often forged through great partnerships and I look forward to seeing the results of this marriage of two creative institutions," said Mavis Staines, NBS' Artistic Director and Co-CEO, "I'm certain all the schools participating in the AI 13 will be eager to see the documentary created from this exciting event."

While the partnership with Ryerson University will extend beyond the AI 13, these initial collaborative projects are vital to the success of the AI 13 festival and NBS is proud to collaborate with Ryerson

University's Faculty of Communication & Design on both technical and documentary elements of the AI 13.

"With an intensive curriculum that combines in-depth professional practice with theory and contextual studies, our experiential learning goes well beyond the classroom," commented Gerd Hauck, Dean of the Faculty of Communication & Design. "Working with Canada's National Ballet School on the AI 13 provides a significant opportunity for FCAD to not only offer our technical and creative expertise and state-of-the-art technologies, but also to partner with a vibrant organization as we broaden our global reach."

The Assemblée Internationale 13 will run from April 28 – May 4, 2013. For more details on the festival please visit [www.nbs-enb.ca/ai13](http://www.nbs-enb.ca/ai13)

#### About Ryerson University

Ryerson University is Canada's leader in innovative, career-oriented education and a university clearly on the move. With a mission to serve societal need, and a long-standing commitment to engaging its community, Ryerson offers more than 100 undergraduate and graduate programs. Distinctly urban, culturally diverse and inclusive, the university is home to more than 28,000 students, including 2,300 master's and PhD students, nearly 2,700 faculty and staff, and more than 140,000 alumni worldwide.

As one of five Faculties at Ryerson University, the Faculty of Communication & Design (FCAD) offers programs of study that attract talented students from across the country and around the world to its programs in media, design, and fine arts. Over 3,600 full-time undergraduate students are enrolled in the Schools of Image Arts, Journalism, Fashion, Theatre, Graphic Communications Management, Professional Communication, Radio and Television Arts, and Interior Design. FCAD currently offers eight graduate programs of study and also houses the Rogers Communications Centre, a University research centre for digital and interactive media.

#### About Canada's National Ballet School

Established in 1959, Canada's National Ballet School is a world leader in the training of professional dancers and teachers. Dedicated to moving the world through teaching and celebrating dance, NBS is committed to providing dance through community engagement in addition to recreational and professional programs. NBS graduates can be found as dancers, choreographers, artistic directors, teachers, and administrators in over 65 dance companies worldwide, and in even more schools around the globe.

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