



ASSEMBLÉE INTERNATIONALE 2009

Canada's National Ballet School

Student Choreographer, Canada's National Ballet School

Established in 1959, Canada's National Ballet School (NBS) is one of the world's foremost training institutions for aspiring young dancers and teachers. Attracting students from across the country and around the world, NBS is the only ballet academy in North America to provide elite dance training, academic instruction and residential care on the same campus. The School's progressive curriculum, with its emphasis on the physical and emotional well-being of the student, has put NBS at the forefront of dance training internationally.

In addition to the School's core Professional Ballet Program for students from Grade 6 to Post-Secondary, NBS also offers a full-time professional Teacher Training Program, a part-time Associates Program for children aged 6 and up, part-time classes for adult recreational ballet students, and a host of professional development classes and workshops for practicing teachers. NBS also has an extensive outreach program.

The quality of the School's programs is reflected in the accomplishments of its graduates. Currently, NBS alumni perform in over 65 companies around the world, including The National Ballet of Canada, American Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet, the Stuttgart Ballet and London's Royal Ballet. Karen Kain, Veronica Tennant, Rex Harrington, James Kudelka, Mavis Staines and John Alleyne are just a few of the many NBS students who have gone on to careers on the international stage as leading dancers, choreographer and artistic directors.

In 2000, the School embarked upon Project **Grand Jeté**, an ambitious \$100 million capital expansion project. The project was completed in 2008, and NBS' State-of-the-Art facilities have since won 13 prestigious international architecture awards.

www.nbs-enb.ca

Shaun Amyot

Director of *Improvisation A109*, Canada's National Ballet School

Shaun Amyot was born in Ottawa, Canada and started his training at the School of Dance before attending Canada's National Ballet School. Professionally, he worked with the Netherlands Dance Theatre and the Frankfurt Ballet before shifting gears into Musical Theatre in both Toronto and in New York on Broadway. He presently enjoys teaching contemporary repertoire and improvisation technique at Canada's National Ballet School. While he is not a student choreographer, we are including this improvisational piece in the choreographic workshop so that all of the visiting dancers could be involved in a collaborative creative project. Shaun is thrilled to be a part of this extraordinary international festival!

Rob Binet

Student Choreographer, Canada's National Ballet School

Rob Binet is a Toronto native. He began dancing at age nine, after seeing a performance of *The Nutcracker*. By age 11 he had been accepted into the Professional Ballet Program at Canada's National Ballet School. In June, 2009, he graduated from PBP and is now a member of the Post-Secondary Program at NBS.

He had choreographed five works for the annual student choreography workshop at NBS, the Stephen Godfrey Choreographic Workshop, as well as works for the Annual General Performance and NBS' Year-End Performance.

Rob's most recent work, *Surge*, was created for the 2008 AGM and will be performed as part of the Assemblée Internationale.

Helen Clare Kinney

Student Choreographer, Canada's National Ballet School

Helen Clare Kinney is a native of San Angelo, Texas. She started dancing at the San Angelo Civic Ballet, and is now delighted to be in her fourth year at Canada's National Ballet School. Alongside dancing, she is passionate about choreography as a form of artistic expression and exploration of new ideas.

The work she has created for the Assemblée Internationale is titled *Elegy for a Round World*.

Sara Coffield

Student Choreographer, Canada's National Ballet School

Sara Coffield is currently in her graduating year at Canada's National Ballet School, where she has studied since the sixth grade. Born in Jakarta, Indonesia, her family is now based in Calgary, Alberta. Before attending NBS, Sara studied dance at the School of Alberta Ballet.

She has choreographed pieces in NBS' annual student choreographic workshop, the Stephen Godfrey Choreographic Workshop. Sara finds her inspiration for choreography in the music, using the way the music moves her as a foundation for the steps then refining that movement to create the piece.

Sara is very excited to be working with an international cast and to be a part of the Assemblée Internationale.