

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Canada's National Ballet School Fête d'Or Gala A Success, Surpasses Fundraising Goal**

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February 11, 2010....Canada's National Ballet School is pleased to announce that this year's annual fundraising gala, Fête d'Or, was a great success. The goal for Fête d'Or, the fiftieth-anniversary gala, was to raise \$800, 000 and sell 50 tables. The goal surpassed, as the evening saw over 520 people in attendance, and raised over \$930, 000.

In addition to fundraising for NBS, each year the Gala celebrates those who have contributed to NBS' ongoing success. The honourees this year were Canadian philanthropists Joan and Jerry Lozinski and NBS Artistic Director Mavis Staines.

The Lozinskis are long-standing patrons of Canada's National Ballet School, having donated not only to the endowment campaign but also to the capital campaign. Their generosity allows NBS to fulfill its mandate of talent being the sole criterion for acceptance into the School. Throughout their years-long involvement with NBS they have hosted international talent multiple times, forging deep and long-lasting relationships with many of NBS' students, including their two partner students. They were presented with the Fête d'Or statue by Jeff Melanson and Mavis Staines, NBS' Co-CEOs and Judith Gelber, NBS' Board Chair.

The fiftieth anniversary year marked another milestone for Mavis Staines, as she celebrated twenty years as NBS' Artistic Director. Ms Staines was honoured at the gala by Margaret McCain, herself a former Gala honouree, and a long-standing supporter and friend of NBS.

The evening's theme was in keeping with the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of NBS. As gold is the traditional gift upon a 50 year anniversary, Fête d'Or, was chosen as the theme to celebrate the Lozinskis and Mavis Staines, while also celebrating NBS' milestone achievement. The evening featured sumptuous cuisine, a signature martini and an auction emceed by Soulpepper Theatre's Artistic Director Albert Schultz. The highlight of the gala was a presentation by NBS students, who performed a work choreographed by NBS student Robert Binet, as well as several works choreographed by NBS staff member Evelina Ganina.

### **About Canada's National Ballet School**

Canada's National Ballet School is a world leader in the training of professional dancers and teachers. Dedicated to advancing the art of ballet, NBS develops dance professionals in a student-centred environment by weaving innovation with evolving

practice in the finest teaching traditions. NBS graduates can be found as dancers, choreographers, artistic directors, teachers, and administrators in over 65 dance companies world wide, and in even more schools around the globe. NBS' fiftieth anniversary celebrations began on September 28, 2009 and continue throughout the academic school year.

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