



**Alumni from Hamburg Ballet, Dutch National Ballet & The National Ballet of Canada to appear at Canada's National Ballet School's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Spring Showcase**

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May 11, 2010...Canada's National Ballet School is pleased to announce that its upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spring Showcase will feature guest performers from The Hamburg Ballet, Het Nationale Ballet (Dutch National Ballet) and The National Ballet of Canada. Alumni from these three companies will share the stage with current students from NBS during the four-performance run of Spring Showcase.

Appearing on stage from The Hamburg Ballet will be NBS alumni Peter Dingle and Kiran West. Peter Dingle graduated from NBS in 1996, and is now a Soloist at The Hamburg Ballet. Kiran West graduated from NBS in 2003, and is a member of the Corps de Ballet at The Hamburg Ballet. They will be performing Neumeier's *Opus 100 – For Maurice*, which is a work for two dancers set to the music of Simon and Garfunkel.

From Het Nationale Ballet (Dutch National Ballet), Erica Horwood and James Stout will appear. Erica Horwood graduated from NBS in 2006, and is now a member of the Corps de Ballet at Het Nationale. She and James Stout, a graduate of The Royal Ballet School and member of Het Nationale's Corps de Ballet, will perform Hans van Manen's *Trois Gnossiennes*, set to the eponymous music by Erik Satie.

The National Ballet of Canada will provide a rotating roster of alumni who will appear on different nights of the Spring Showcase program. Dancing a pas de deux from John Cranko's *Onegin* will be Artist-in-Residence Rex Harrington and Principal Dancer Xiao Nan Yu. Harrington graduated from NBS in 1981, and went on to become one of the ballet world's most recognizable stars. Yu graduated from NBS in 1996, and has been a Principal Dancer with the company since 2001.

NBS alumni Jillian Vanstone and Naoya Ebe will perform the "bluebird" pas de deux from Nureyev's *The Sleeping Beauty*. Vanstone graduated from NBS in 1999, and joined The National Ballet of Canada that same year. She was promoted to First Soloist in 2006. Ebe is a 2006 NBS grad, who is a member of the Corps de Ballet of the National Ballet.

The 'white swan' pas de deux from Erik Bruhn's *Swan Lake* will be danced by NBS alumni Elena Lobsanova and Brett van Sickle. Lobsanova graduated from NBS in 2004, and joined the National Ballet that same year. She was promoted to Second Soloist in 2009. Brett van Sickle graduated from NBS in 2001, and danced with American Ballet Theatre and Het Nationale Ballet before joining The National Ballet of Canada, where he is now a Second Soloist.

Performing Dominique Dumais' *Tides of Mind* will be NBS alumni Stephanie Hutchison and Jonathan Renna. Hutchison graduated NBS in 1989, and danced with Ballet BC

before joining the National Ballet, where she is a First Soloist. Renna graduated from NBS in 1997, and danced with Alberta Ballet and Northern Ballet Theatre before joining the National Ballet, where he is also a First Soloist.

The dancers from The Hamburg Ballet and Het Nationale (Dutch National Ballet) will perform during each of the four Spring Showcase presentations. The dancers from The National Ballet of Canada will share the stage, and two couples will perform at each show.

**Thursday May 27:** Performances by alumni from The Hamburg Ballet, Het Nationale Ballet (Dutch National Ballet). From The National Ballet of Canada Rex Harrington with Xiao Nan Yu and Jillian Vanstone with Naoya Ebe performing pas de deux from *Onegin* and *The Sleeping Beauty*.

**Friday May 28:** Performances by alumni from The Hamburg Ballet, Het Nationale Ballet (Dutch National Ballet). From The National Ballet of Canada Stephanie Hutchison with Jonathan Renna and Rex Harrington with Xiao Nan Yu performing *Tides of Mind* and a pas de deux from *Onegin*.

**Saturday May 29 at 2pm:** Performances by alumni from The Hamburg Ballet, Het Nationale Ballet (Dutch National Ballet). From The National Ballet of Canada Jillian Vanstone with Naoya Ebe and Elena Lobsanova with Brett van Sickle performing pas de deux from *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*.

**Saturday May 29 at 7:30 pm:** Performances by alumni from The Hamburg Ballet, Het Nationale Ballet (Dutch National Ballet). From The National Ballet of Canada Stephanie Hutchison with Jonathan Renna and Elena Lobsanova with Brett van Sickle performing *Tides of Mind* and a pas de deux from *Swan Lake*.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spring Showcase also features current NBS students performing excerpts from *Paquita*, *Yondering*, *Sequentia* and *30-Minute Beauty Makeover*, as well as *5 views of a temple garden*. Presented each year, Spring Showcase is an important tradition at NBS. Used as both a performance vehicle for students in the School's full-time program and a way for NBS to share dance with the community, this celebration of dance offers the public a special glimpse at the stars of tomorrow while embracing some of the most well-known classical and modern ballets of all time.

This year's Showcase runs from Thursday May 27 – Saturday May 29, with evening shows each night and a matinee on the 29. The first half of the program features the same dance works with a revolving cast of highly accomplished NBS dancers. The second half of the program features the rotating NBS alumni performances. This highly regarded event always sells out, so please book early.

Spring Showcase 2010:

- Thursday, Friday, Saturday May 27, 28, 29 at 7:30 pm
- Saturday May 29 at 2:00 pm
- Box office: Mon-Fri 10:00-4:00
- Tickets may be purchased in-person in the lobby of the Betty Oliphant Theatre,

404 Jarvis Street, or via the telephone at 416-964-5148. New this year, ticket reservations are not possible.

- \$50 per ticket, \$25 for students

#### 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' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations began on September 28, 2009 and continue throughout the academic year.

- 30 -

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