

## **Frequently Asked Questions – Assemblée Internationale 2017**

### ***What is the Assemblée Internationale 2017?***

- The Assemblée Internationale is a unique opportunity for ballet students and artistic faculty from around the world to come together to learn, collaborate, and share their creativity in an international forum.
- It is a unique event in that its premise is based on the principles of collaboration and partnership.
- From April 30<sup>th</sup>-May 5<sup>th</sup> 2017, participants from 21 international professional ballet schools will take part in an intensive seven days of classes, rehearsals, performances, forums and professional development for Artistic Directors. The AI 17 will also include an innovative choreographic work, exploring the use of motion sensor technology in dance.

### ***Where does the name “Assemblée Internationale” originate from?***

- Before the first Assemblée Internationale took place in 2009, Canada's National Ballet School held a student competition and “Assemblée Internationale” was selected.

### ***Where did the idea for the AI come from?***

- To celebrate Canada's National Ballet School's (NBS) 40th anniversary in 1999, a conference called Not Just Any Body (NJAB) was held. NJAB brought together ballet school Artistic Directors from around the world to discuss some of the challenges they face.
- Ten years later, in 2009, NBS brought together some of the same people, and some new ones, to evaluate the kinds of changes that were made over the past decade. This conference was intended to be much more student-focused and meant to discuss the challenges prospective dancers face. Thus, NBS brought together Artistic Directors and their students to discuss these issues, and incorporated dancing into the conference.

- The idea for the Assemblée Internationale was born in 2009 (with 12 participating schools), repeated in 2013 with 18 schools, and will take place again from April 30 to May 6, 2017 with students and artistic staff from 21 international professional ballet schools.

***Who is participating in the AI13?***

- The schools invited to participate in the AI13 are those with which NBS has a long standing partnership (through exchanges with students and staff).
- The participating schools include:

The Ailey School  
 The Australian Ballet School (Melbourne, Australia)  
 Boston Ballet School (Boston, USA)  
 Canada's National Ballet School (Toronto, Canada)  
 Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School (Winnipeg, Canada)  
 Codarts (Rotterdam, Netherlands)  
 Cuban National School of Ballet (Havana, Cuba)  
 Dutch National Ballet Academy (Amsterdam, Netherlands)  
 École Supérieure Danse de Cannes-Mougins Rosella Hightower (Cannes, France)  
 L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec (Montréal, Canada)  
 EESA/CPD de l'Institut del Teatre (Barcelona, Spain)  
 Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy (Houston, U.S.A.)  
 National Ballet School (Havana, Cuba)  
 New Zealand School of Dance (Wellington, New Zealand)  
 Palucca School (Dresden, Germany)  
 Paris Opera Ballet School (Paris, France)  
 The Royal Ballet School (London, England)  
 The Royal Danish Ballet School (Copenhagen, Denmark)  
 San Francisco Ballet School (San Francisco, U.S.A.)  
 The School of The Hamburg Ballet, John Neumeier (Hamburg, Germany)  
 University of Music and Performing Arts (Munich, Germany)

***How many students will be participating in the AI13?***

- There will be a total of 174 students from the various ballet schools participating in the AI 17.
- Most of the schools are sending 4 students each, and there will be approximately 48 artistic and administrative staff from the different schools attending as well, in addition to several other VIP guests.

***When/Where is the AI 17 taking place?***

- The AI 17 is taking place from Sunday, April 30 to Saturday, May 5, 2017 at Canada's National Ballet School in Toronto, Canada
- AI 17 performances are taking place at Canada's National Ballet School's Betty Oliphant Theatre (400 Jarvis Street, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2G6 Canada)

***Will there be any public performances during the AI 17?***

- Yes – there will be 4 public performances: 2 existing repertoire performances and 2 NBS alumni/student choreography performances that will include blended casts of dancers from each of the schools' participants.
- Performances are taking place on the following days:
  - Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 19:30 – From 21 Schools: Traditionally Timeless - Program A
  - Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 19:30 – From 21 Schools: Traditionally Timeless – Program B
  - Friday, May 5, 2017 at 19:30 – NBS Alumni Choreographers
  - Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 13:30 - NBS Alumni Choreographers

***How much do tickets to the AI 17 performances cost?***

- Admission for each performance is \$60 for adults and \$30 for students and seniors.

***How can AI 17 tickets be purchased?***

- Tickets can be purchased by calling the Canada's National Ballet School Box Office at 416-964-5148 or by email at [boxoffice@nbs-enb.ca](mailto:boxoffice@nbs-enb.ca). The Box Office is open weekly Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 12:00 and 16:00 EST.

***What performances will be included in the AI 17?***

- The AI 17 will include existing repertoire pieces representative of each of the participating schools' culture, as well as choreography created by NBS alumni and current NBS students, which will be performed by a blended cast of students from each of the participating schools.
- During the NBS Alumni Choreographers program a new work will be performed, created by AI 17 Co-Artistic Director, Shaun Amyot. Amyot collaborated with two professors from York University's faculty of Computational Science. Together they are utilizing Myo Armbands, generously donated by Thalmic Labs for the the dancers to wear. The

armbands worn by the dancers measure the motion and speed of their bodies and projects images from that data onto the backdrop. Simultaneously, the soundscape will also unfold as the sensors respond to the dancer's movements.

- For a full list of the AI 17 performances and schedule, please visit <http://www.nbs-enb.ca/Assemblee-Internationale>

***How is the AI 17 funded?***

- Canada's National Ballet School is underwriting the entire event in order to advance broad, full, international participation.
- All of the funding for AI 17 has come from private donations, generously contributed by supporters, corporations and foundations.