

Casablanca Gala in support of Canada's National Ballet School aims to raise \$850,000 for Student Financial Assistance

TORONTO, ON (January 9, 2014) – Canada's National Ballet School (NBS) will immerse guests in a stylish 1940's inspired setting at its annual fundraising gala, themed *Casablanca Gala*, on **Friday, February 7th, 2014**. Hosted at The Carlu, the *Casablanca Gala*, presented by TD Bank Financial Group, aims to raise \$850,000 towards providing financial assistance to NBS' Professional Ballet Program students. The evening will draw together NBS' closest friends and supporters – those who have made it possible for NBS to thrive – to gather and celebrate the School. This event will mark fifty-four years of passionate and enduring dedication to the advancement of professional ballet training combined with academic instruction in Canada.

NBS is the only ballet school in North America providing professional dance training, academic instruction and residential care on the same campus. With an international reputation for excellence, the School focuses first and foremost on the students' talent and not on their ability to finance their education, as talent is the sole criterion for acceptance into the School's Professional Ballet Program. For nearly 25 years, NBS' annual gala has helped ensure that no talented student be prevented from attending NBS due to financial circumstances.

NBS Gala Co-Chairs, Juanita Montalvo and Stephen Delaney explain: "NBS' annual fundraiser is a wonderful and vital opportunity to gather the School's greatest supporters and secure the financial support needed to ensure that NBS' exceptionally talented students – of which 7 out of 10 require financial assistance – can continue to excel in their training and pursue their passion towards a career in professional dance."

This year's Gala will feature many of the aspects of previous years that have proven so popular with attendees, with some new and exciting twists. The *Casablanca Gala* will feature a Casablanca-inspired cocktail reception and gourmet Moroccan dinner by à la Carte Kitchen Inc., culminating in a ballet performance by NBS' Professional Ballet Program students. Following the performance will be a casino and lounge with live entertainment. The evening will also include a luxury raffle with prizes valued over \$49,000, featuring lead Raffle Partner Mindham Fine Jewellery. New to this year's Gala, NBS is offering an exclusive "35 and Under" ticket at a reduced price with the intent of introducing a younger generation to the art form of ballet. "35 and Under" tickets will include a 'welcome' wine reception with NBS student ambassadors, as well as performance, raffle, casino and lounge. Gourmet hors d'oeuvres and complimentary bar service will also be offered throughout the evening. For more information on attending the Gala, purchasing a table or raffle ticket, or sponsoring the 2014 *Casablanca Gala*, please visit: www.nbs-enb.ca/casablanacagala.

Casablanca Gala Event Details

When: Friday, February 7, 2014, Cocktail 6:15 p.m., Dinner & Performance 7:15 p.m.

Where: The Carlu, 444 Yonge St., Toronto, ON

Event Tickets: NBS *Casablanca Gala* individual tickets are available for \$1,500 per person at www.nbs-enb.ca/casablanacagala or by calling Brittany McLeod, Development Officer – Events at: 416 964-3780 x 2146. "35 and Under" tickets ('Welcome' Wine Reception, Performance, Casino & Lounge Access) are also available for \$100.

Presenting Sponsor: TD Bank Financial Group

- - -

The *Casablanca Gala* is generously supported by the Presenting Sponsor for 2014, TD Bank Financial Group. Other leading supporters include Karma as Cocktail Reception Sponsor; RBC Royal Bank as Dinner Sponsor; Burgundy Asset Management Ltd. as Performance Sponsor; Raffle Partner, Mindham Fine Jewellery; and Media Sponsor, The Globe and Mail.

About Canada's National Ballet School's Annual Gala

Each year Canada's National Ballet School (NBS) hosts a magical evening for over 500 patrons to raise funds for NBS' students--72% of whom require financial assistance. Dazzling performances and exceptional raffle prizes keep generous

supporters returning, year after year. The NBS gala celebrates emerging talent, the beauty of dance and the determination required to attend one of Canada's leading arts training institutions. It plays a crucial role in securing 30% of the School's annual fundraising goal in a single night. For over 20 years the annual gala has helped NBS retain its core value – that talent remains the sole criterion for entry.

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 by teaching and celebrating dance, NBS is committed to promoting the art of dance through community engagement in addition to offering 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. For more information, please visit: www.nbs-enb.ca.

-30-

Media Information

Danielle Paroyan
Senior Communications Officer
Canada's National Ballet School
416-964-3780 x 2117
dparoyan@nbs-enb.ca