



Canada's National Ballet School Announces Spring Showcase 2014 Repertoire

TORONTO, ON (April 10, 2014) - Canada's National Ballet School (NBS) is pleased to announce the repertoire for its upcoming **Spring Showcase 2014** performances, presented by M•A•C. Taking place from May 21 to May 24 at the Betty Oliphant Theatre, this year's program will feature both classical and contemporary works. **Spring Showcase 2014** will present two world premieres of newly-commissioned works by internationally-renowned choreographers and NBS alumni: Robert Binet's *Wave Ring*, and Demis Volpi's *Chalkboard Memories*. **Spring Showcase 2014** will also present the welcome return of *The Sleeping Beauty* to the NBS stage.

Presented each year, **Spring Showcase** is an important tradition at NBS that is used as both a performance vehicle for students in the School's full-time Professional Ballet Program and a way for NBS to share dance and celebrate leading choreographers with the community. This highly anticipated event 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.

Robert Binet's world premiere, *Wave Ring*, is a narrative work set to an original score by composer Gity Razaz, whose music has been described by *The New York Times* as "ravishing and engulfing." Binet and Razaz first collaborated at New York City Ballet's Choreographic Institute in 2011 while Razaz was studying at Juilliard. Binet, currently Choreographic Associate at The National Ballet of Canada (NBoC), graduated from NBS in 2009. From 2012 to 2013, he became the first-ever Royal Ballet Choreographic Apprentice, and in this newly created position he was mentored by Wayne McGregor, Resident Choreographer of The Royal Ballet. In addition to creating works for both NBS and NBoC, Binet has created works for the German National Youth Ballet, The Royal Ballet, Wayne McGregor | Random Dance, the Estonian National Ballet and Ballet Black.

NBS will also debut Demis Volpi's *Chalkboard Memories* at **Spring Showcase 2014**. *Chalkboard Memories* transports viewers back to when Volpi was a student at NBS. Volpi's work lives through his dancers' personalities and their courage to show the world who they are through dance. Volpi, Resident Choreographer at Stuttgart Ballet, graduated from NBS in 2002. In addition to creating pieces for NBS and the Stuttgart Ballet, Volpi has choreographed works for the John Cranko School, Hamburg Ballet School, American Ballet Theatre, Badisches Staatsballett and Ballett Augsburg. For the 2011 Erik Bruhn Competition, Volpi's Pas de deux *Little Monsters* for the Stuttgart Ballet won the best Choreographic Prize, and in 2014 he received the German Dance Prize Future.

NBS students will also perform *The Sleeping Beauty* Act III, which was last presented by NBS in 2000. Choreographed by Marius Petipa in 1890 to music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, this ballet represents the mature flowering of Petipa's classicism. Based on Charles Perrault's famous

fairy tale, the final act depicts Aurora's wedding, and befitting a fairy-tale, the wedding guests include not only the members of the royal court but also other fairy tale characters, jewels and the Lilac Fairy whose intervention protected Aurora and ensured the future of the kingdom.

"Performing this diverse range of repertoire and working with choreographers as talented as Demis Volpi and Robert Binet are invaluable experiences for NBS students, as these help prepare them to meet the demands of the professional ballet world in their future careers," states Mavis Staines, NBS Artistic Director and CEO.

Spring Showcase 2014:

- Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday May 21, 22, 23 & 24 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday May 24 at 2:00 p.m.
- Box Office opens to the general public Tuesday, April 29
- Box office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Purchase tickets by email, boxoffice@nbs-enb.ca, or by phone at 416-964-5148
- Performances take place at the Betty Oliphant Theatre, 404 Jarvis St., Toronto
- Ticket prices: \$50 for adults, \$30 for students (with valid student ID) & seniors

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.

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