

### **Steampunk Gala in support of Canada's National Ballet School**

TORONTO, ON (February 18, 2016) – Canada's National Ballet School (NBS) will immerse guests in a fun and whimsical setting at its annual fundraising gala, themed *Steampunk*, on Friday, March 4, 2016 at The Carlu. The evening will draw together NBS' closest friends and supporters to celebrate the School. Funds raised from the gala contribute to the School's broad range of programs.

With its rich 57-year history, NBS is the foremost ballet training institution in Canada and a celebrated leader within the international ballet community. At the recent Holland Dance Festival, NBS students' performances captivated audiences and the School's initiatives and standards were referenced as "inspired and inspiring." NBS is the only ballet academy in North America providing professional dance training, academic instruction, and residential care within one organization, and on the same campus. At NBS, entry is based solely on talent. Every professional ballet student is subsidized with designated tuition fees covering only a quarter of the actual costs to educate and train the School's talented young dancers. Even within this scenario, 75% of families require some level of financial assistance.

NBS is at the forefront of professional ballet schools in delivering a wide and diverse range of community programs. NBS' *Sharing Dance* program promotes broad public participation in dance for recreation and for the physical, social, emotional, and cultural benefits that dance provides. Through *Sharing Dance*, NBS provides public schools with enjoyable dance activity for children linked to curriculum requirements. The program also engages seniors, including those living with Parkinson's disease or dementia, in activity that improves health and quality of life.

NBS Gala Co-Chairs, Margaret Norrie McCain and Jen McCain explain: "NBS' annual fundraising gala is a wonderful opportunity to support the benefits of dance for everyone: from the very gifted students in the Professional Ballet Program to the many participants in NBS' Community Programs."

This year's *Steampunk Gala* will feature a cocktail reception and gourmet four-course dinner by Oliver & Bonacini Restaurants, culminating in a performance by NBS' Professional Ballet Program students. Following the performance will be a post-dinner lounge with live entertainment. The evening will also include a luxury raffle with a selection of stellar prizes valued at over \$43,000, including travel adventures from Quench Trip Design Ltd., Lead Raffle Partner.

An exclusive Young Patrons Ticket (ages 19 to 35) will also be offered at a reduced price to introduce a younger generation to the art of ballet. Young Patrons Tickets will include a welcome reception with gourmet hors d'oeuvres and complimentary bar service, as well as the performance, raffle, lounge and live entertainment.

For more information on attending the Gala, purchasing a table or raffle ticket, or sponsoring the 2016 *Steampunk Gala*, please visit: [www.nbs-enb.ca/Steampunk-Gala-2016](http://www.nbs-enb.ca/Steampunk-Gala-2016).

#### **Steampunk Gala Event Details**

**When:** Friday, March 4, 2016, Cocktails 6:15 p.m., Dinner & Performance 7:15 p.m., Lounge & Entertainment 10:00 p.m.

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

**Event Tickets:** *Steampunk Gala* individual tickets are available for \$1,500 at [www.nbs-enb.ca/Steampunk-Gala-2016](http://www.nbs-enb.ca/Steampunk-Gala-2016) or by calling Chelsea Ireton, Development Officer, Events at: 416 964 3780 x 2205. Young Patrons Tickets (ages 19 to 35) (8:00 p.m. start; includes Welcome Reception, Performance & Lounge Access) are also available for \$125.

*Steampunk Gala* is generously supported by Burgundy Asset Management Ltd. as Dinner Sponsor; Joan and Jerry Lozinski as Performance Sponsor; Tanya Taylor as Cocktail Reception Sponsor; Lindy Barrow, In Memory of Helen Gardiner as Live Musical Entertainment Sponsor; The Globe and Mail as Media Sponsor; Somerset Graphics Co. Ltd. as Print Sponsor; and Quench Trip Design Ltd. as Lead Raffle Partner.

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

Each year Canada's National Ballet School hosts a magical evening for over 600 patrons and friends. Dazzling performances and exceptional raffle prizes keep generous supporters returning, year after year. The NBS gala celebrates the beauty and relevance of dance experienced by elite young dancers destined for professional careers, and people of all ages who dance for fun, fitness and quality of life. The gala plays a crucial role in securing over 40% of the School's annual fundraising goal in a single night. To learn more, visit: [www.nbs-enb.ca/Steampunk-Gala-2016](http://www.nbs-enb.ca/Steampunk-Gala-2016).

### **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. NBS alumni can be found as dancers, teachers, choreographers and artistic directors in over 80 dance companies and schools around the globe. NBS is at the forefront of professional ballet schools in delivering a broad range of community programs. The excellence of the Professional Ballet Program is reflected in all of NBS' programs. For more information, please visit: [www.nbs-enb.ca](http://www.nbs-enb.ca).

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