

Canada's National Ballet School to Host Second International Ballet Festival for Students, the Assemblée Internationale

February 21, 2012....Canada's National Ballet School is thrilled to announce that in May 2013 it will host the second Assemblée Internationale, an international ballet festival for students. The 2013 event will build on the success of the inaugural Assemblée Internationale, held in 2009, through an expanded and enhanced roster of events.

As part of the 50th anniversary celebrations in 2009, NBS hosted 12 of its international partner schools for a week-long student choreography festival – the Assemblée Internationale. Students from participating schools performed two works: a piece of existing repertoire, or 'calling card' of their school and a work of student choreography. For the latter, a student from each school created a work which was performed by a blended cast composed of students from each of the partner schools. Due to the excitement and demand from all previous participants and interest from additional schools, the second Assemblée Internationale: A Ballet Festival Uniting the World will run from April 29 – May 5, 2013.

For Assemblée Internationale 2013 (or AI 13) NBS has broadened the field of invitees with seven additional schools. The full list of schools participating in the AI 13 is:

The Australian Ballet School	National Ballet Academy (Amsterdam)
Beijing Ballet Academy	National Ballet School (Havana)
Canada's National Ballet School	New Zealand School of Dance
Codarts (Rotterdam)	Palucca Schule (Dresden)
L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec (Montreal)	Paris Opera Ballet School
EESA/CPD de l'Institut del Theatre (Barcelona)	The Royal Ballet School (London)
Hamburg Ballet Schule	Royal Danish Ballet School
Houston Ballet School	Royal Winnipeg Ballet School
John Cranko Schule (Stuttgart)	San Francisco Ballet School
The Juilliard School	

As in 2009, the intent of the 2013 festival is to provide a rich educational experience for all student participants and strengthen the bonds linking the professional ballet education community. Mavis Staines, NBS' Artistic Director said, "The Assemblée is an opportunity to bring together exceptionally talented, committed young dancers and offer them the opportunity to learn, collaborate and demonstrate their creativity in an international forum. The relationships strengthened and benefits realized in 2009 continue to resonate and the international ballet community looks to NBS to develop this momentum further." Grant Troop, NBS' Executive Director added, "Our commitment to this event demonstrates the international leadership position in dance training and education that NBS has established. We are encouraged by the very positive response from our international partners in dance education, and wish to broaden the public's appreciation of dance and of our role in this global dance community".

The AI 13 will again invite schools to present a 'calling card' dance work which showcases their dancers. Schools will also choose to participate in either the Student Choreography Project or the Live Streaming Project. The Live Streaming Project, new

to AI 13, will be created and produced by NBS Artistic Faculty member Shaun Amyot in collaboration with NBS graduate Jill Johnson, Director of the OFA Dance Program at Harvard University and Michael Schumacher, an Amsterdam-based dance artist. The work they create will be performed by a blended cast of AI 13 students present in Toronto, joined virtually through live streaming by dancers in Holland and the United States.

The Student Choreography project will be organized as during the AI 2009. Participating schools will have a student create a work for the AI 13 which will be performed by a cast composed of students from the participating schools. The casts and choreographers will rehearse together in Toronto during the week of the AI 13, and then stage a workshop performance at the festival's end.

Also repeating from the success of the AI 2009 are the Artistic Director Forums and a conference to conclude the festival. The Artistic Director Forums are designed to give attending Artistic Directors an opportunity to discuss the evolution of ballet education and methods of strengthening its relevance in a changing world. The concluding conference will involve all visiting students, ballet staff and Artistic Directors in an exploration of the overlapping areas of live performance and virtual reality and how the two can re-enforce and complement each other, a topic selected by NBS students reflecting their commitment to increase accessibility to ballet. The conference will review current copyright laws and assist in the development of realistic proposals for how these might evolve.

The schedule of the Assemblée Internationale 2013: A Ballet Festival Uniting the World, along with venues and ticket purchasing information, will be announced in Spring 2012.

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 moving the world through teaching and celebrating dance, NBS is committed to providing dance through community engagement in addition to recreational and professional programs. 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 celebrated its 50th anniversary year from September, 2009 – June, 2010.

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