

Canada's National Ballet School Celebrates International Dance Day With The Creation Of Two Dance Routines, Partners With The Ontario Science Centre.

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March 3, 2011....Canada's National Ballet School is pleased to announce that its celebration of International Dance Day 2011 will take the form of two special dance performances. One of the dances is aimed at participants ages 16+ and will be staged as a flashmob in Toronto on Friday, April 29. The other routine is for dancers ages 8 – 15, and is performed as a celebration of dance and an opportunity for its participants to experience joy in movement. That performance will take place at the Ontario Science Centre on Wednesday, May 11 at noon.

In 2010, as part of its 50th anniversary festivities, NBS organized a flashmob in the Toronto Eaton Centre on April 29, International Dance Day, a UNESCO-recognized, international celebration designed to “encourage non-dancers to participate in and enjoy dance in a celebratory environment.” Following the successful performance and subsequent YouTube video, NBS decided to mark IDD 2011 by creating two dance routines. NBS is also using IDD to highlight the great Canadian artists working and creating today. Each of the IDD routines was created by a Canadian choreographer and is set to a song by a Canadian musician. Matjash Mrozewski has choreographed the adult routine to Joel Plaskett's *Penny For Your Thoughts* and Courtnae Bowman has choreographed the children's routine to k-os' *Crabbuckit*.

While the flashmob performance details will remain secret until April 29, NBS is thrilled to announce the children's performance will be at the Ontario Science Centre, one of Canada's most visited attractions. Its mission to delight, inform and challenge visitors through engaging and thought-provoking experiences in science and technology, speaks to its goal of providing hands-on learning and growth experiences for all its visitors. By partnering with NBS, the Science Centre provides the dance celebration a perfect venue for the performance of its hands-on dance experience.

To facilitate easy learning and practicing of the dance routines, NBS has created instructional videos for both the adult and the children's routines. They are available on NBS' YouTube channel. Participants across Canada may utilize the videos to learn the routines on their own, regardless of their location, and may create their own special dance performance to mark International Dance Day. NBS will showcase videos of the performances happening across the country on its website. This year NBS has also introduced an International Dance Day blog, featuring entries from teachers, choreographers and participants in both routines.

“The Ontario Science Centre is the best possible venue for the special performance of the children's dance routine,” stated Jeff Melanson, NBS Executive Director & Co-CEO, “through their innovative exhibits and programming they appeal to children of all ages and diligently work to make learning a fun experience. NBS aims to make learning to

dance a fun experience, and is thrilled at this partnership with the Ontario Science Centre.

“Dance is a perfect example of the intersection of art and science,” said Lesley Lewis, CEO, Ontario Science Centre. “This event encourages visitor involvement, promotes healthy active living and shows how children can motivate their peers to take part in a community event.”

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 advancing the art of ballet, NBS develops dance professionals in a student-centred environment by weaving innovation with evolving practice in the finest teaching traditions. 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 from September, 2009 – August, 2010.

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