

Canada's National Ballet School Announces 2013/2014 National Audition Tour & Open Class Dates

September 19, 2013...Canada's National Ballet School (NBS) is pleased to announce that the 2013/2014 National Audition Tour (NAT), which includes Open Classes and Auditions, will commence in Moncton, NB on November 4. This year's NAT, which is presented by Sun Life Financial, will visit 21 cities across Canada before concluding in Toronto on February 9, 2014.

Auditions for the **Professional Ballet Program** – which offers full-time dance training, academic education and residential care for students in Grades 6 to 12 and full-time dance training to post-secondary students (**Post-Secondary Program**) – take the form of a specially designed ballet class where dancers are assessed for quality of movement, coordination and overall suitability for the demands of classical ballet. The minimum age to audition is 10, and no prior ballet training is required for students aged 12 and under.

Open Classes are offered by NBS artistic staff as an outreach component of the National Audition Tour. These classes are for junior and senior dance students regardless of their intent to audition for the full-time program. Designed for young dancers who are eager to explore movement, these classes give participants a dynamic sense of dance and performance.

NBS also offers a full and part-time **Teacher Training Program** to high school dance majors, professional dancers seeking a career change and practicing ballet teachers who would like to enhance their knowledge and teacher skills. Entrance into the Teacher Training Program is by DVD audition submission. Information detailing the application process is available on NBS' website at www.nbs-enb.ca/professional.

"Sun Life Financial is delighted to continue its support as Presenting Sponsor of the National Audition Tour for the fourth year in a row," said Mary De Paoli, Executive Vice-President, Public & Corporate Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer, Sun Life Financial. "We have always believed in the importance of increasing access to the arts and investing in our communities. By supporting the National Audition Tour, we are supporting emerging young talents as they pursue their passion for dance."

"Each year we look forward to NBS' National Audition Tour. Auditioning youth from across the country for our full-time Professional Ballet Program, while also engaging Canadian communities in the joy of dance, are key elements to NBS' continued growth and dedication to 'moving the world.' This annual event also provides an invaluable opportunity for NBS to connect with dance teachers from coast to coast who daily enrich the lives of their students. I am equally grateful to Sun Life Financial for their continued support and contributions to the NAT," said Mavis Staines, NBS Artistic Director.

From the more than 1,000 young dancers who audition each year, approximately 150 are chosen to participate in the second-stage assessment, a four-week **Summer School** held at NBS' state-of-the-art training facilities in Toronto in July.

NBS continues to make its website the key source for information on all its programs, projects and initiatives. The School's Facebook page now boasts upwards of 6,500 fans, and its YouTube Channel has more than 100 videos. NBS is also on Twitter, and can be found under the handle @NBS_ENB. Registration for Open Classes and Audition dates is now open, check NBS' website, www.nbs-enb.ca for details.

National Audition Tour 2013/2014 Cities and Dates:

Drummondville, QC	Thursday, September 26, 2013 (in conjunction with outreach initiatives)
St. John's, NL	Sunday, October 20, 2013 (in conjunction with outreach initiatives)
Moncton, NB	Tuesday, November 5, 2013
Edmonton, AB	Wednesday, November 6, 2013
Charlottetown, PE	Thursday, November 7, 2013
Nanaimo, BC	Friday, November 8, 2013
Quebec City, QC	Saturday, November 9, 2013
Vancouver, BC	Sunday, November 10, 2013
Calgary, AB	Tuesday, November 12, 2013
Montreal, QC	Thursday, November 14, 2013
Ottawa, ON	Saturday, November 16, 2013
Halifax, NS	Monday, November 18, 2013
Sudbury, ON	Monday, November 18, 2013
Saskatoon, SK	Wednesday, November 20, 2013
Brandon, MB	Friday, November 22, 2013
Whitby/Oshawa, ON	Sunday, December 8, 2013
London, ON	Monday, January 6, 2014
Windsor, ON	Wednesday, January 8, 2014
Waterloo, ON	Friday, January 10, 2014
Toronto, ON	Sunday, January 26 & Sunday, February 9, 2014
Barrie, ON	Sunday, February 2, 2014

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 engagements 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.

-30-

Media Information

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