

Canada's National Ballet School Announces Spring Showcase 2012 Repertoire

March 19, 2012...Canada's National Ballet School is pleased to announce the repertoire for its upcoming Spring Showcase performances. This year's program once again features a wide array of works of both classical and contemporary style. As announced in February, Spring Showcase 2012 presents the world premiere of a newly-commissioned work by internationally-renowned choreographer and NBS alumna, Aszure Barton. The new work is set to excerpts from *24 Preludes for Violin and Piano* by Russian-American composer Lera Auerbach.

Spring Showcase 2012 also presents the welcome return of *Giselle* to the NBS stage. Students will dance Act II, which was last presented by NBS in 1998. Often described as the most popular of the Romantic ballets, *Giselle* is a perennial audience favourite. Choreographed by Marius Petipa in 1841 it tells the story of the titular heroine, a peasant girl who falls in love with Albrecht, a prince. Because of his nobility their love is denied and he marries another woman, causing Giselle to die of a broken heart. In Act II, Albrecht returns to Giselle's grave to beg forgiveness and she not only forgives him but saves him from the evil Wilis. *Giselle* is an audience favourite not only for its emotional story but because of the technical demands it places on its performers.

Erik Bruhn's *Here We Come*, originally created NBS in 1978, will make its return to the NBS stage for the first time in almost 20 years. The work is an energetic tour de force demanding athleticism and artistry of its all-male cast.

Rounding out the bill is the NBS debut of *Brute*, a solo work created in 1994 by NBS' Artist-in-Residence, Peggy Baker. The work was inspired by Picasso's *Guernica* and its anti-war statement. Set to Prokofiev's *Sonata No 6 in A Major*, the solo work will be danced by a rotating roster of NBS students.

"The 2012 Spring Showcase program is an exciting opportunity for NBS students to present the best of the traditional ballets with the most exciting of innovative developments," stated Mavis Staines, NBS' Artistic Director, "the opportunity to be part of a program with such diverse works is a valuable one for any dancer, and helps prepare NBS students for the increasing demands of the professional dance world. The Spring Showcase performances are always a highlight for everyone at NBS and I look forward each year to watching NBS' students as they prepare for and present these challenging works."

Presented each year, Spring Showcase is an important tradition at NBS. Used as both a performance vehicle for students in the School's full-time program and a way for NBS to share dance with the community, this celebration of dance offers the public a special glimpse at the stars of tomorrow while embracing some of the most well-known classical and modern repertoire of all time.

This year's Showcase, presented by MAC cosmetics, runs from Thursday May 24–Saturday May 26. The same dance program is featured each evening, with a revolving

cast of highly accomplished NBS dancers. Opening Night this year features a post-show reception to which all ticket-holders are invited. Tickets go on sale on Wednesday April 25. This highly regarded event always sells out, so please book early.

Spring Showcase 2012:

- Thursday, Friday, Saturday May 24, 25, 26 at 7:30 pm
- Saturday May 26 at 2:00 pm
- Box Office opens Wednesday, April 25
- Box office: Tues-Fri 11:00-4:00
- Tickets may be purchased in-person in the lobby of the Betty Oliphant Theatre, 404 Jarvis Street, or via the telephone at 416-964-5148. Please note: ticket reservations are not possible.
- \$50 per ticket, \$25 for students & seniors

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.

- 30 -

For more information:

Katharine Harris
Communications Manager
Canada's National Ballet School
416.964.3780 x2117
kharris@nbs-enb.ca