

## Canada's National Ballet School Announces Spring Showcase 2011 Repertoire

3/52

March 23, 2011...Canada's National Ballet School is pleased to announce the repertoire for its annual Spring Showcase performance once again, this year featuring a wide array of works spanning the gamut from classical to contemporary, presenting works new to the NBS stage as well as some returning favourites.

Spring Showcase 2011 features the welcome return of Balanchine's *Scotch Symphony* and Sabrina Matthews' *Ein Von Viel* to the NBS stage. *Scotch Symphony* was last performed at NBS in 2005. Choreographed by George Balanchine in 1952, this work was inspired by Balanchine's company – New York City Ballet – visiting the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland. Inspired by the rugged landscape and the grandeur of Scottish Regiments, Balanchine created this ballet upon his return to New York.

*Ein Von Viel* is choreographed by Sabrina Matthews, an NBS alumna and was last danced by NBS in 2006. The work is set to nine of Bach's Goldberg Variations, and is a duet for two male dancers. Sabrina Matthews has worked with NBS before, having most recently created *Sequentia* for the 2009 Spring Showcase.

Also on the program are excerpts from Act III of *La Bayadère*, which has not been performed on the NBS stage since 1997. *La Bayadère*, choreographed by Marius Petipa, debuted in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1877. The story centres on Nikiya, a temple dancer, and her love Solor, a warrior. Demanding a strong female corps with technical precision, dance critic Clive Barnes in 1963 described *La Bayadère* by saying, "If you don't enjoy La Bayadère, you really don't enjoy ballet."

The fourth work on the program is the NBS premiere of Nacho Duato's *Jardi Tancat*. The work debuted with Nederlands Dans Theater 2 in 1983 and was Duato's first choreography. *Jardi Tancat* is Catalan for Closed Garden. The work is set to a series of songs recorded by the Spanish singer Maria del Mar Bonet, the songs based on poems centred on farming life in Spain and the desperate need for rain. *Jardi Tancat* won Duato the International Choreographers Competition in Cologne when it debuted.

"This year's Spring Showcase once again features an incredibly rich and varied program," stated Mavis Staines, NBS' Artistic Director, "the opportunity to perform in a program with works that are this varied yet blend so well is a truly rich learning experience for any young dancer. I look forward each year to witnessing the artistry NBS students develop as they prepare for and present these four performances, and I know this year will be no exception."

Spring Showcase 2011 is also the official unveiling of the new seats recently installed in the Betty Oliphant Theatre. The new, top-of-the-line high-back seats are accompanied by other refurbishments including new carpeting and bring a fresh update to the theatre, which was originally constructed in 1988.

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 26 – Saturday May 28. 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 Tuesday April 26. This highly regarded event always sells out, so please book early.

#### Spring Showcase 2011:

- Thursday, Friday, Saturday May 26, 27, 28 at 7:30 pm
- Saturday May 28 at 2:00 pm
- Box Office opens Tuesday, April 26
- 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' 50<sup>th</sup> celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year from September, 2009 – June, 2010.

- 30 -

Presenting Sponsor: M·A·C Cosmetics

Canada's National Ballet School is grateful for the generosity of the following major supporters: The Government of Canada through the Honourable James Moore, Minister, the Department of Canadian Heritage, The Ontario Arts Council, the Government of Ontario, Active 2010, the City of Toronto, the British Columbia Arts Council, Human Resources and Development Canada.

#### For More Information:

Katharine Harris  
Communications Manager  
Canada's National Ballet School  
416 964 3780 x 2117  
kharris@nbs-enb.ca