



Maya Smallwood



Ewan – the interpreter for her choreography

Dear NBS Supporters,

For me, Turnout is such an important way of sharing some of the most exciting and pertinent information with NBS' closest community of supporters. This edition is no exception—we have news to share about NBS' activities at our Toronto campus, across Canada and internationally.

First, we are incredibly grateful that Professional Ballet-Academic Program students are once again able to return to a blend of in-studio ballet training and online academic coursework. Although the School's now-well-honed online training regimen kept students active and engaged during the most recent provincial school closures in January and February, the return of music and young dancers to the School's hallways is very welcome.

One of those young dancers, grade 12 student Maya Smallwood, recently entered into the international spotlight when she was named one of two winners of the prestigious Prix de Lausanne's inaugural Young Creation Award. At 17, Smallwood was the youngest finalist and both the sole female and North American finalist choreographer selected from over 54 submissions worldwide. As a winner of this year's competition, which aims to discover aspiring and talented young choreographers, Maya's choreography will become part of the Prix de Lausanne contemporary repertoire in 2022. I know members of NBS' supporter community love to cheer the School on the world stage, so I hope you are as thrilled as we are by Maya's remarkable achievement.

Returning closer to home, I am thrilled to announce the launch of *ARISE*, a brand-new initiative thematically linking NBS' fundraising initiatives over the course of a year and addressing a unique need at this unique moment. Although we are again unable to host our annual fundraising gala this year, we still have so much to share about perseverance, passion, and the power of dance—from studios and stages to digital environments around the world, including dancers of all ages and abilities during this extraordinary moment in history. *ARISE* is a way to share these stories in depth, while also gathering crucial support that will drive the creation and expansion of world-class programs that help more people experience the life-changing power of dance. You can find more information about *ARISE* in this issue of Turnout.

As always, I hope this edition of Turnout offers something interesting, informative or inspiring for each of you.

With sincere appreciation and best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bulham'.

Tessa Bulham
Director of Development

OTHER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcing the 2021 NBS Sharing Dance Choreography: Register today!

The annual NBS Sharing Dance Choreography returns this year, providing a common way for tens of thousands of people to explore and celebrate creative movement and its relevance in our daily lives—even during a time where our lives look much different. This year's choreography, co-created by Lua Shayenne and Jera Wolfe, is an expression of this unique moment in time, lived and felt by the global community. Dancers can explore and reflect on their own experiences of isolation, reflection, growth, transformation and balance from the past year.

Registration is now open. Visit our website to learn more about the choreographers, their 2021 NBS Sharing Dance Choreography, and to enroll for free to access the choreography.



ARISE Special Q&A:

Chelsea Ireton—NBS' Manager, Development & Partnership Events—shares everything you need to know about NBS' new fundraising initiative, *ARISE*

Chelsea, typically around this time of year, you are immersed in preparations for the School's annual fundraising Gala. What's different this year?

With public health guidelines continuing to be of the highest importance, NBS' Gala team has had to put our planning on pause for yet another year and explore new ways to meet our goals. We continue to be expressly grateful to the NBS donor community, whose response to the cancellation of our 2020 VIBRANT Gala was heartwarming—many would-be guests honoured their pledges, and others kept in constant contact, eager for the next opportunity to help. Thanks to them, we were able to explore new ways to approach the ambitious fundraising goal that the Gala helps reach (40% of the School's fundraising needs in one evening).

A unique moment, a unique need.



Photo by Bruce Zinger



Photo by Celeste Cole

How will the School meet its fundraising goals without the Gala in 2021?

Because we remain absolutely committed to opening doors for dancers of all ages, abilities and aspirations, we are presenting *ARISE*, a brand-new initiative addressing the unique need at this unique moment. *ARISE* is a thematic through-line for all NBS' fundraising initiatives this year, and takes a unique approach to sharing stories of resilience and innovation from dancers across Canada and around the world. The initiative is launching with a focus on the gifted young dancers of the Professional Ballet-Academic Program, offering—among other things—a chance for donors to partner with a cohort of 10 students and follow their semester-long journeys through documentary-style footage and a digital storytelling platform.

What can donors expect from supporting a PBP *ARISE* cohort?

While the campaign is entirely digital in presentation, Cohort Partners will be able to engage with student life at NBS in a way that we feel is very unique (and certainly has not been done to this level before). Launching in April with the final digital event in July 2021, Supporters will be partnered with a unique cohort of NBS students and artistic faculty members, and will be able to follow their journeys through a digital platform with curated content, including a monthly webisode series and final digital event in June. We feel very fortunate that NBS' digital technology resources—honed over many years through our Community Dance initiatives—and incredible creative team provide world-class tools for us to make *ARISE* really special.

Cohort Partnerships and Sponsorship Opportunities range from \$3,000 to \$50,000.



Photo by Aleksandar Antonijevic

Can I participate in ARISE?

Yes! We gratefully welcome donations at all levels—truly, every amount makes a very meaningful contribution to driving the creation and expansion of world-class programs during this unique time. Donors giving \$150 or more will receive access to the *ARISE* webisode series and culminating digital event, in early summer, which reflects on themes from the semester and provides insights into students' next steps.

If you are interested in supporting a Professional Ballet Program Cohort, or donating to the *ARISE* Campaign, please visit www.nbs-enb.ca/en/support-nbs/arise, or contact us directly. To make the most of your partnership, please consider making your gift before March 22 as the *ARISE* experience, including stories and updates will be launched in April.

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Thank you!

Your generous financial support helps talented young artists achieve their dreams of professional dance training, and inspires people of all ages and abilities to enrich their lives through dance.

While visitor access will likely remain restricted throughout the new school year, we hope to find opportunities to welcome you and our community of supporters back to the School as soon as it is safe to do so. Until then, we will continue to keep you at the heart of our community by sharing important news and updates. In the meantime, if you wish to connect with us or would like a further update, please feel free to call us at 416.964.3780 and ask for Aimee.