

Turnout

Donor Events for Your Calendar!

December 2021

Dear NBS Supporters,

Although December ends the calendar year, we are only part way through the academic year at Canada's National Ballet School (NBS), and are happy to use this occasion to thank you for your generosity and your committed support. In addition to extending warmest season's greeting, I'm pleased to share a number of updates in this edition of Turnout, from programs and initiatives that will remain a priority into 2022.

NBS' Year in Review report for the 2020/21 school year was shared earlier this month. If you have not yet read it, I encourage you to do so by [clicking here](#). In the document, you will notice a special emphasis on updates regarding our ongoing and expanding commitments to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. We are especially honoured to highlight a new multi-year Canada/US partnership with the Dance Institute of Washington, which will launch in Winter 2022 with the inaugural *Canada-United States Symposium: Addressing Racialization in Ballet*. You can read more about this unique event below.

We are also privileged to work alongside NBS alumnus John Alleyne in his new role as NBS' Artistic Advisor, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion. An esteemed leader, choreographer and former dancer, John brings expertise and passion that we are fortunate to learn from. He joins a group of several individuals and organizations that have made recent, significant contributions to NBS' accountability, learning and action, including Esie Mensah, Kevin Ormsby, and the Kojo Institute.

A highlight on the horizon is the return of NBS' beloved Spring Showcase performances in late May, 2022. Be sure to mark your calendars using the "save the date" included below.

On behalf of myself and my colleagues here in NBS' Development Department, I extend my warmest wishes for health, happiness and well-being to you and your loved ones.

With sincere appreciation and best wishes,



Tessa Bulham
Chief of Advancement



Pictured: Professional Ballet-Academic Program students perform *Swan Lake* during NBS' Spring Showcase in 2015. Photo by Cylla Von Tiedemann.

Save the Date: Spring Showcase Week of May 23, 2022

Join us in celebrating the return of this beloved performance experience. The 2022 Spring Showcase performances will take place during the week of May 23, and will feature the magic of Marius Petipa's Paquita, alongside other repertoire to be announced in the coming months.

Addressing Racialization in Ballet

Inaugural Canada-United States Symposium: Addressing Racialization in Ballet

In Winter 2022, Canada's National Ballet School, the Dance Institute of Washington and LFP Inc. will host *Addressing Racialization in Ballet*, the inaugural Canada-United States symposium to engage in meaningful and solutions-oriented discussions of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in the sector. The symposium will focus on three pillars that support the credible pursuit and implementation of EDI: business success, subjectivity of ballet, and the ethical responsibility of the art form.

Over two weekends in the new year (Jan 28-29 and Feb 4-5), this online symposium will convene lived experiences, areas of expertise and innovative ideas from a diverse range of multi-generational speakers, panelists and facilitators from Canada and the United States.

Updates, including speaker bios and panel descriptions, **can be found online**. This symposium is ideal for arts administrators, dance teachers, artists and students.

Special Projects

NBS Partners with Alumnus John Alleyne on Equity Work

Canada's National Ballet School is pleased to welcome John Alleyne, NBS Alumnus, as a consultant in the role of Artistic Advisor, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI). He brings his great love of ballet and of NBS along with his depth of experience as an artist and a leader to this role.



Photo by David Cooper

John constantly thinks about the concept of relationship and how it creates paths to our best life. He has spent the past 10 years in self-directed learning to investigate judgment and taste, race and esthetics/the arts. He has seen and experienced first-hand the challenges Black artists face in their pursuit of artistically surviving and thriving, while navigating the Eurocentric dominance of Canadian arts spaces.

John will partner with NBS leadership and staff on issues of organizational culture, processes and professional development. One of John's central priorities will be to provide an objective, outside perspective and point-of-view to support an exceptional high bar of increasing diverse talent at the School.

John is excited about partnering with NBS. The School is equally excited and deeply appreciative of this invaluable opportunity to work with and learn from John. To learn more about John, [click here](#).

Happy Holidays from Canada's National Ballet School!

From the NBS family to yours, warmest of wishes for health and happiness during this holiday season and through the coming year. May you continue to find joy, inspiration and the spirit of celebration through dance.

Thank You! Your generous financial support will help talented young artists achieve their dreams of professional dance training, and inspire people of all ages and abilities to enrich their lives through dance.

While visitor access will likely remain restricted, 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.