

Turnout

Donor Events for Your Calendar!

November 2021

Dear NBS Supporters,

It is a bustling time at Canada's National Ballet School (NBS). The return to in-person training has meant a busy schedule for NBS' Professional Ballet-Academic Program (PBP) students, including completing their regular ballet training and academic coursework, preparing for various online and in-person performance opportunities, and abiding by necessary COVID-19 health protocols. Their adaptability and resilience continues to be inspiring.

This busy time is reflected in NBS activities locally, across Canada and around the world. As PBP students prepare once again to participate in the National Ballet of Canada's (NBoC) production of *The Nutcracker*, NBS Company Life Program students will also dance with the NBoC augmenting roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Serenade* and the upcoming *Swan Lake*, and NBS artistic staff members and musicians are hosting virtual cross-country auditions for the 2022/23 academic year.

Speaking of young dancers, the NBS Kids program continues to engage youth within schools and community program settings, providing movement and dance through On-Demand and Live-Synchronous workshops. This Fall Term over 160 schools have registered classrooms of students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 for NBS' live-synchronous workshops. These online workshops, led by NBS Community Dance Specialists, provide interactive creative movement activities and opportunities for youth to experience choreography.

We are also preparing for *Return to Stage*, a dance presentation for our supporters on December 8th. We are so excited to be planning this event as our first in-person performance in 24 months. Over the years, donors have enjoyed this event as an opportunity to hear from NBS' leadership team and watch an engaging student performance. NBS is also thrilled to welcome parents of the PBP students back to the theatre with a dedicated Parent's Presentation of the *Return to Stage* program.

With this presentation's return to the Betty Oliphant theatre on December 8, we want to ensure we maximize the performance element this year—since this is what we all have missed for so long. I hope you will join us, either in person, or through the simultaneous broadcast.

With sincere appreciation and best wishes,



Tessa Bulham | Chief of Advancement



Special Projects

Re-imagining Assemblée Internationale 2020

NBS is embracing the decision to postpone Assemblée Internationale (AI) to May 2023 as an opportunity to reimagine what the festival will look like. Together with partner schools, we remain focused on planning responsibly and using this time to strengthen the goals and intended outcomes of the AI festival. There will be particular emphasis on collaboration, inclusion, knowledge exchange and relationship building with additional international dance schools reflecting/representing and celebrating a diversity of dance forms and perspectives. The potential of this reimagined festival is truly exciting, and we can't wait to share more information with you over the next year.

NBS auditions attract aspiring young dancers and teachers

Registration is now open for NBS' annual cross country auditions for the Professional Ballet-Academic and Teacher Training Programs. With COVID-19 restrictions continuing to present a challenge for travel, auditions will remain in an online format, taking place over Zoom video conferencing this Fall and Winter for admission to the 2022/23 academic year. As we found during last year's online auditions, the online format helps to remove geographical barriers for young dancers in parts of Canada where the audition tour has not been able to travel in past years. We look forward to meeting hundreds of dancers from across Canada and around the world who are taking the exciting step to pursue their dreams!

[Click here to learn more](#)



Celebrating World Ballet School Day and the next generation of dance artists

On November 13, Canada's National Ballet School and dance schools across the globe celebrated World Ballet School Day (WBSD)—a special video event celebrating the next generation of dancers. Created by students for students, World Ballet School Day is a platform for young artists in training to share a message of solidarity through the language of dance and ballet.



WORLD
BALLET
SCHOOL
DAY

Simon Adamson De Luca, a grade 12 student in NBS' Professional Ballet-Academic Program represented the School as a member of the World Ballet School Day student committee. In this year's event, Simon, alongside his fellow student committee members, guide audiences through interviews, discussions, rehearsal and performance footage, offering unique insights into the world of professional ballet and dance training.

The second edition of WBSD is available to watch online until December 13.

Tune in at **www.worldballetschoolday.com**

The Nutcracker Student Rehearsal



NBS Nutcracker Student Rehearsal (online event)

Date: Saturday, December 4, 2021 | Time: 11:30 AM (EST) | Runtime: Approximately 60 minutes

RSVP for this virtual online observation

It's a magical time of year – *The Nutcracker* season! Extra magical this year as we move to in-person performances- after last season's Pandemic 'blackout'. As of Dec. 11th, Grade 7 to 9 students from NBS' Professional Ballet/ Academic Program are performing a range of roles in James Kudelka's *The Nutcracker*, presented by the National Ballet of Canada. *The Nutcracker* represents a special part of NBS students' experience and is an important learning opportunity for these young dancers. We hope you will join us virtually for this open rehearsal featuring students in the final stages of preparing their Nutcracker roles.

For questions or further information about this event, please call or email Emilia Mesa at 416-964-3780 x 2123 or Emilia.mesa@nbs-enb.ca

— Return To Stage —

An on-stage dance presentation from
NBS' Professional Ballet Students in appreciation of our Supporters

Return To Stage

Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 | Time: 7:00 PM (EST) | Runtime: Approximately 75 minutes

Location: Betty Oliphant Theatre, 404 Jarvis Street

The first on-stage, in-person, live audience performance – in over 24 months at Canada's National Ballet School! Being able to celebrate this moment together is the best way that we know to say thanks to our supporters. Our Professional Ballet Program students have persevered with inspiring resilience and are excited to finally dance for you! Please join us for a memorable evening featuring a mixed repertoire program that will be sure to delight. This has been a long time coming and we can't wait to welcome you in person.

Book your tickets through NBS' Box Office by either clicking here OR by calling 416-964-5148

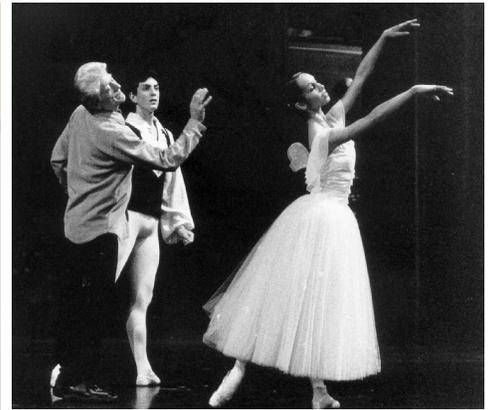
For supporters unable to join us in-person, we invite you to the live-stream:

RSVP for the virtual event by clicking here

Please RSVP by December 1, 2021. Tickets are complimentary and on a first come first serve basis. Attendees must show proof of vaccination and follow NBS COVID Health & Safety practices.

Click here to learn more about NBS COVID Health & Safety practices

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(Left to right) Sergiu teaching PBP class in 2015; Sergiu teaching students 2001; Sergiu as a young student at the Vaganova School in what was then Leningrad.

Celebrating the Extraordinary Career of Sergiu Stefanski

For the past 43 years, Sergiu has shared his deep knowledge of dance and his passionate commitment to the art form with NBS students and artistic staff. His artistic partnership with NBS' Principal Pianist, Marina Surgan, saw music and ballet training merge in extraordinarily beneficial ways. The profound influence he has had as a master teacher is evident in NBS Alumni's careers around the world and across generations.

Sergiu was born on Moldavia in 1941, in the midst of the Second World War and grew up in Bucharest, Romania. When the war ended, Sergiu found a love for moving to music and began folk dancing which led him to study ballet at the age of 12 at the Vaganova School, in what was then Leningrad. Here he met Rudolf Nureyev, and a life long friendship was forged. With a similar passion for dance the two young dancers would practice together often, sharing what each was learning from their own ballet teachers. The seed was planted early for Sergiu to become a great teacher. After graduation, Sergiu joined the Bucharest Opera Ballet, soon becoming a principle dancer, which permitted him often leave Romania and dance as a guest artist across Europe.

On one of his trips to Paris, he took a ballet class, that happened to be observed by Betty Oliphant, who was also visiting with some students from Canada's National Ballet School. Ms. Oliphant was so impressed by Sergiu, that, after consulting with Celia Franca, offered him a one year contract with the National Ballet of Canada (NBoC). Returning to Bucharest, he asked permission to accept the contract but it was denied. He decided to leave for Toronto anyhow, knowing he would never be allowed to return to Romania. He began his career at the NBoC in 1971 and as a principal dancer with the company had a rich and satisfying career, dancing all the leading roles of the classical repertoire and being involved in the creation of many new works. On retiring from NBoC in 1978, he accepted Ms. Oliphant's offer to teach at NBS.

NBS is thrilled that Sergiu will keep his role as an inspiring mentor and will regularly observe classes, to provide feedback and wisdom to NBS' current Artistic Staff.

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.