



Canada's National Ballet School's Annual Gala Comes Home: Celebrating 60 Years of Dance in the Most VIBRANT of Colours!

Toronto, ON (February 24, 2020) – On Thursday, March 12, Canada's National Ballet School (NBS) opens the doors of its iconic buildings for GALA 60 VIBRANT: a high-chroma evening of immersive experience and performance to spotlight the power of dance.

"This year's theme and artistic direction is exciting in how it challenges our expectations. As a fashion designer, I constantly try to push past expectations of colour, size, and image," says Tanya Taylor, Creative Director for this year's Gala and a member of NBS' Board of Directors. "At NBS, I've witnessed the same drive – to challenge our assumptions of who dancers are, where and how they dance, and what they can accomplish through the art form."

Taylor—the New York-based, Canadian designer who is iconic for her vivid use of colour in fashion design—adds, "Colour is therapeutic. The right hue has the power to uplift, calm or inspire, and I'm thrilled to use it as a medium to uncover the many ways that dance can enrich our lives physically, emotionally, spiritually, and culturally."

The annual gala is NBS' signature fundraising event—but this year is unlike any other. With GALA 60 VIBRANT, the School marks its 60th anniversary with a brand-new event that will take over NBS' campus for the first time—from the soaring studios of the Celia Franca Centre to the illustrious stage of the Betty Oliphant Theatre.

The driving purpose of this re-imagined gala remains the same: to raise vital funds in support of student financial assistance, ensuring that talent is the only criterion for admission into NBS' Professional Ballet-Academic Program (PBAP). Funds also support the School's nation-wide community dance programs, making dance accessible to people of every age, ability and aspiration.

"As an expression of identity, dance powerfully conveys who we are, what we stand for, and what we can aspire to be – as individuals and as a nation," says Mavis Staines, NBS' Artistic Director and CEO. "NBS is deeply thankful to all supporters for their belief in the power of dance to inspire and transform lives."

The evening will feature non-stop entertainment, culinary delights, dancing, and vibrant activities including a performance by NBS' PBAP students, expert pointe shoe fittings, art and music installations, a silent disco, raffle and silent auction – featuring travel and cultural experiences, artwork, furniture and

more. In addition, NBS will host a VIBRANT Party for young professionals, hosted by the School's young patron's steering committee, the First Position Patrons, which is a collective of young adults with shared interests in dance and the arts. Party tickets are available at a reduced price and include a welcome reception, seating for the student performance, food stations and bar service throughout the evening.

GALA 60 VIBRANT Event Details

When: Thursday, March 12, 2020 – Event starts at 5.30p.m for dinner guests, followed by a 6.30p.m performance and the party. Guests with tickets to the VIBRANT Party only will join at 7:30pm for second performance followed by a reception and party.

Where: Canada's National Ballet School, 400 Jarvis Street, Toronto, ON.

Event Tickets: GALA 60 VIBRANT tickets can be purchased through Samantha Bordignon, Development and Partnership Events Coordinator, by calling **416-964-3780 ext. 2123** or emailing samantha.bordignon@nbs-enb.ca. Tickets are available at \$200 for the General Admission VIBRANT Party, and \$1,700 for a Group Package VIBRANT Party Tickets (10).

For more information on NBS' annual event, or to learn about sponsorship and purchasing a ticket or a table, visit www.nbs-enb.ca/vibrantgala60.

GALA 60 VIBRANT is generously supported by:

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About Canada's National Ballet School (NBS)

At Canada's National Ballet School (NBS), excellence, access and inclusion fuel our belief in sharing the transformative power of dance. Since 1959, NBS' pursuit of excellence has constantly revealed the life-changing impact of dance. This is what drives the School's commitment to making dance a part of all Canadians' lives. NBS is at the forefront of professional ballet schools in delivering a wide and diverse range of programs that improve health and quality of life for people of all ages and abilities—from dancers training for a professional career on the world stage, to seniors discovering the joy of dance for the first time. The annual NBS gala plays a crucial role in securing approximately 40% of NBS' annual fundraising goal in a single night. For more information about NBS' dynamic breadth of programming, visit www.nbs-enb.ca.

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Media Information

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