



## Training a new generation of dance artists Inaugural edition of World Ballet School Day begins today

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Toronto, ON, July 7, 2020 – **Canada’s National Ballet School** is delighted to participate, alongside 11 leading international dance schools and institutions, in the inaugural **World Ballet School Day**, which will be available online at [www.worldballetschoolday.com](http://www.worldballetschoolday.com) for one month beginning today at 7am ET.

World Ballet School Day (WBSD) connects the next generation of young professional dance artists with young people from around the world. Created by students for students, this event is a platform for young artists in training to share a message of solidarity through the language of dance and ballet. It also highlights the resilience, strength, dedication, talent, intellect and passion of students training at professional ballet and dance schools, showcasing how their journeys as professional artists begin and why—now more than ever—ballet, dance and art matter so much.

Students from participating schools will lead a round table to provide insights into the world of professional ballet and dance training especially during lockdown, introducing segments from each school featuring behind the scenes and performance footage filmed before and during lockdown.

The event will also feature the world premiere of a new dance work. Six international ballet schools worked with choreographer Didy Veldman to explore the theme of physical restriction in a project led by The Royal Ballet School. The Royal Ballet School invited San Francisco Ballet School, Canada’s National Ballet School, Paris Opera Ballet School, The Royal Danish Ballet School and the Dutch National Ballet Academy to join them in a creative choreographic challenge for ballet students in lockdown. The dancers worked in six groups and created and rehearsed with Didy over Zoom. The students then filmed their individual performances and Didy and The BalletBoyz have created a film containing their work.

The founding of WBSD is a collaboration of Boston Ballet School, Canada’s National Ballet School, English National Ballet School, New Zealand School of Dance, Palucca University of Dance Dresden, and the Prix de Lausanne. The idea was originally conceived by Viviana Durante.

Twelve schools/institutions from three continents are participating in this inaugural year:

The Australian Ballet School  
Boston Ballet School  
Canada’s National Ballet School  
Dutch National Ballet Academy  
English National Ballet School  
New Zealand School of Dance

Palucca University of Dance Dresden  
Paris Opera Ballet School  
Prix de Lausanne  
Royal Ballet School  
Royal Danish Ballet School  
San Francisco Ballet School

*Mavis Staines, Artistic Director and CEO of Canada’s National Ballet School, says: “World Ballet School Day is about challenging the misconceptions that surround ballet and broadening perceptions about its relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. My hope is for audiences to gain an expansive understanding and appreciation of ballet’s potential to contribute meaningfully on a global level, especially as they learn about how young people train and develop as world-class artists and Olympic-calibre athletes at professional training institutions.”*

For more information, contact:

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