

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

SOCIETY » WHITE HOT GALA » NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA



MILLION-DOLLAR QUESTION

How much of success is about luck of the draw?

Ballet patrons kicked up their heels and mused about the balance between hard work and good timing. Reporting by **Laura Serra**. Photos by **Tom Sandler**



It's a combination of hard work and luck, being in the right place at the right time, and recognizing opportunities.
Jay Smith, executive, CIBC Wood Gundy



I think you have to have the basic accoutrements to begin with and then there's a magical confluence that happens.
Denise Donlon, executive director, CBC Radio

I think it's 50/50. If you don't have the talent to go with the luck of the draw, then you're still stuck with that lottery ticket, standing somewhere.

Salah Bachir, president and chief executive officer, Cineplex Media Entertainment

We think luck and talent is actually a better hedge against the odds.

Denise

She is my hero.
Salah



I think it's the universe.

Bob Hope

That would be luck of the draw.
Rex Harrington, principal dancer, National Ballet of Canada

No, no. If you believe in it enough, then you'll get it back.
Bob

What you put out, you get back.

Rex

It's not chance or luck at all. Whatever energy you put into it, will come back to you.

Bob

Energy. Yes.

Rex



Ray Kroc says 'success is a dividend of sweat.'

Mark Cohon, Canadian Football League Commissioner

None of it. You have to work so much harder now. There's so much access into what you do, how you get it done and how you go about your business that you just have to push yourself harder than ever.

Suzanne Cohon



It's being at the right place at the right time. You need talent but it needs to be recognized, also.

Sonia Rodriguez, principal dancer, National Ballet of Canada

You're lucky to be good but you have to be good to be lucky. When things came my way and I knew I was at the right place at the right time, I thought, 'This is lucky,' but I created that luck with hard work.

Kurt Browning, Canadian figure skater



The harder you work, the luckier you get. It takes talent, but it takes a lot more than talent. It takes mostly hard work to succeed in anything.

Karen Kain, artistic director, National Ballet of Canada, here with Ross Petty