

THE BUZZ

CZECH DANCER JOINS NATIONAL BALLET

Toronto – Czech-born dancer Jiri Jelinek is the newest principal dancer at the National Ballet of Canada, giving the Toronto company at least half of the German-based duo it had hoped to lure across the Atlantic.

Jelinek, who trained in Hamburg, has been a principal dancer at Stuttgart Ballet since 2004. He was originally to be joined in Canada by fellow Stuttgart dancer and Canadian native Jason Reilly, who is currently dancing the role of Prince Florimund as a guest in the National Ballet's Toronto production of *The Sleeping Beauty*. But having announced his impending move to Canada, Reilly changed his mind and stayed in Stuttgart.

Jelinek held his first principal dancer's job with the National Theatre in Prague. He will join the National Ballet in January.

» James Bradshaw