

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

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The National Ballet of Canada Annual General Meeting

On Stage
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts

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Charitable
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11905 1449 RR0001

October 15, 2009 ... **Lucille Joseph**, Board Chair of The National Ballet of Canada, announced today that the company experienced a year of unprecedented artistic strength and, in challenging economic times, maintained its roster of dancers, created groundbreaking new works and closed the 2008/09 year with a manageable accumulated deficit of \$423,000. The Annual General Meeting was held today at 1:00 pm at The Walter Carsen Centre for The National Ballet of Canada in Toronto.

Lucille Joseph remarked on her first year as Board Chair: "The National Ballet is an extraordinary company and its remarkable abilities were clearly demonstrated this year. The company's artistic quality was praised around the world and recognized at home in the midst of the shock of the economic downturn. The challenges of the year were consistently met with analysis and adaptation in response to the changing environment. In an enormously successful yearend campaign, our donors showed once again how supportive and generous they are to this institution. I am extremely privileged to work with our visionary Artistic Director, Karen Kain, the outstanding staff led by Executive Director, Kevin Garland, and to have the wisdom and unfailing support of the Board of Directors. We move forward with confidence and optimism as the future is brighter than ever."

The National Ballet of Canada's fiscal 2008/09 revenues were \$24,931,000 with expenses at \$25,569,000 resulting in a shortfall of \$638,000. With the National Ballet's accumulated surplus of \$215,000, the year ended with an accumulated deficit of \$423,000. The 2008/09 revenues come from box office (40%), fundraising (29%), government grants (26%), other income (3%) and endowment foundation (2%).

Kevin Garland, Executive Director of The National Ballet of Canada, thanked Lucille Joseph and the board. "Through the wonderful support of our donors and patrons and the hard work of staff we managed to keep the deficit to well under a million, as was earlier feared. Along with the extraordinary yearend campaign, the entire staff worked tirelessly to find savings in every department. I want to thank everyone on staff that helped the company through very personal sacrifices with pay freezes, pay cuts and unpaid days."

The company had 378 performances and outreach events in the 2008/09 season with a total attendance of 227,426. There were 80 performances in the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts with 146,695 in attendance and 291 community events reaching 63,421 young people and their families. The company toured its production of *Soldiers' Mass to Fall* for Dance in New York City and Orange Country for 4 performances and 10,928 attendance. The National Ballet performed in Ottawa at the National Arts Centre for 3 performances of *Romeo and Juliet* with 6,382 people in the audience.

Karen Kain, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, commented: "The past year was one of the most artistically gratifying and exciting of any since my artistic directorship began. We presented seven new works of daunting technical and emotional complexity that were embraced by the dancers and drew superlatives from the choreographers and

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audiences. John Neumeier's *The Seagull* made me very proud of the company. The daring and enthusiasm the company brought to our *Innovation* programme earned us four Dora Mavor Moore Awards for our performance of Crystal Pite's *Emergence*. The dancers fearlessly interpreted Twyla Tharp's *In The Upper Room*, Dominique Dumais' *Skin Divers* and Davide Bombana's *Carmen*. There were many highlights to the year, including a bittersweet goodbye to the spectacular Chan Hon Goh who retired after 20 years of exhilarating dancing.

While external circumstances have made this year a difficult one for everyone in the arts, the skilled and dedicated leadership of Kevin Garland and the diligence and support of the Board of Directors, especially Lucille Joseph, have seen us through in excellent financial health. I thank all the dancers, musicians, production and administrative staff and our extraordinary donor community," concluded Ms. Kain.

The Volunteer Committee, The National Ballet of Canada, under President **Karen Sparks**, continued to raise money for its Build-a-Ballet Fund which has paid for 46 ballets over the past 32 years. Last season, the Volunteer Committee generously funded *IN COLOUR* and *DEXTRIS*.

Lucille Joseph, Kevin Garland and Karen Kain welcomed new board members **Jason Dehni**, Vice President, Scotiabank Group, **Susan Harris**, President and CEO, Executive Coaching Associates, **Ann Hogarth**, Chair, Patrons' Council Committee, **Etienne Lavigne**, First Soloist (Dancers Representative) and **Karen Leggett**, Senior Vice President of Cards and Payment Solutions, RBC.

The company acknowledged and thanked retiring members **Christopher Body** (Dancers Representative), **Missy Crosbie**, **Jeanie Davis**, **Lynda Hamilton** and **Veronica Zufelt**.

Gold service pins are awarded yearly to employees of The National Ballet of Canada who have been with the company for 20 years. Ms. Kain awarded long service pins to Principal Dancer **Sonia Rodriguez**, Production Director **James Thornley**, Seamstress **Susan Howse**, Resident Cutter **Christopher Read**, Bassist **Paul Langley**, Bassoonist **Jerry Robinson**, Music Library Assistant **Lucie Parent** and Violinist **Sheldon Grabke**.

[2008 Financial Statistics >](#)

[2008 Selected Attendance Statistics >](#)

The 2008/09 season was presented by CTV and The Globe and Mail.

Soldiers' Mass was a gift from THE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE, THE NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA. In memoriam: Gregory Osborne & Howard Meadows.

In The Upper Room was a gift from Walter Carsen, O.C.

BMO Financial Group presented *The Seagull*.

The Seagull was generously supported in part by an anonymous friend of the ballet.

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Emergence by Crystal Pite was generously supported by Gail Hutchison.

IN COLOUR by Peter Quanz and *DEXTRIS* by Sabrina Matthews were gifts from THE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE, THE NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA.

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Romeo and Juliet entered the repertoire of The National Ballet of Canada on February 8, 1995 and was totally underwritten by Walter Carsen, O.C.

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Carmen and *Skin Divers* were presented as part of the third annual Luminato – Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity.

Carmen was generously supported in part by Margaret Fleck & Jim Fleck, O.C., and Gretchen & Donald Ross.

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The National Ballet of Canada gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the Canada Council for the Arts; the Ontario Arts Council; the City of Toronto through the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Department; The Government of Canada through the Honourable James Moore, Minister, the Department of Canadian Heritage; the Government of Ontario; the Ontario Arts Foundation; the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

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