

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Media Release

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New Exhibition Opens at Toronto Pearson International Airport Opens March 26, 2009

On Stage
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts

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March 25, 2009... Take a tour of the unseen world of ballet. *Behind the Scenes* brings together items from The National Ballet of Canada's current productions as well as historical items from the Archives of The National Ballet of Canada.

The exhibition goes beyond the traditional images of ballerinas in tutus and showcases the athleticism and artistry of The National Ballet of Canada's dancers, and how they transform into dramatic stage characters. It explores how every ballet production is realized by a cast of artistic individuals working behind the scenes.

Behind the Scenes is curated by students in the graduate program in Museum Studies at the University of Toronto. According to **Toby Lennox**, Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Communications at the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA), "one of the most exciting elements of this show is the partnership between The National Ballet of Canada, the University of Toronto and the GTAA. By allowing future curators to create the exhibition, we are helping them develop their passion and prepare them for work in cultural organizations. Additionally, the partnership has resulted in an exhibit which is exceptionally good and can be enjoyed by the thousands of travellers that pass through Toronto Pearson every day."

"The National Ballet of Canada is so pleased to be able to share its story with the public through photos and costumes from our magnificent productions as well as historical items from our Archives," says **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada.

Behind the Scenes opens on March 26, 2009 in Malton Airport Gallery, Terminal 1, Toronto Pearson International Airport. The gallery is located on level 2, above the Canada Arrivals Hall. Travel documents are not required to view the exhibition.

Background:

Launched in April 2004, the GTAA Art and Exhibitions Program offers a wide variety of engaging exhibits, with many developed in partnership with museums, galleries and cultural and heritage institution on Ontario and Canada. The GTAA works to promote the Greater Toronto Area's reputation as an important cultural destination.

The GTAA is the non-share, not-for profit authority that operates Toronto Pearson. All revenue generated by the GTAA is reinvested back into the airport. In 2008, 31 million passengers traveled through Toronto Pearson.

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