

Principal Character Artist Victoria Bertram Retires

On Stage
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts

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August 20, 2010... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, today announced that Principal Character Artist **Victoria Bertram** has decided to retire after 47 years with the company.

"We were looking forward to having Victoria in the roles she has made her signature this season, including Her Stepmother in *Cinderella* and Baba in *The Nutcracker*, but after much reflection this summer she has decided to retire. She has had an extraordinary 47-year career at the National Ballet where her commitment and artistry was evident in every role she brought to the stage. Victoria will be greatly missed by the company and our audience," said Karen Kain.

Ms. Bertram was honoured in June 2010 with the coveted David Tory Award by The National Ballet of Canada. The award is peer-nominated and given to the recipient for professionalism, mentorship, optimism and enthusiasm for life and the art of dance.

Ms. Bertram joined The National Ballet of Canada in 1963, was promoted to Soloist in 1970, to Principal Dancer in 1981 and Principal Character Artist in 1986. Her repertoire as a Principal Character Artist with the National Ballet included virtually all of the female lead character roles, including Madge in *La Sylphide*, Berthe in *Giselle*, Carabosse and the Lilac Fairy in *The Sleeping Beauty*, a Whore in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Juliet's Nurse and Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Madame Larina and the Nurse in *Onegin* and Minerva in *Judgement of Paris*.

In addition, Ms. Bertram created an extensive range of roles in works by James Kudelka including Her Stepmother in *Cinderella* (2004), Katschei's wife in *The Firebird* (1999), the Winter muse in *The Four Seasons* (1997), the Queen in *Swan Lake* (1999), Baba in *The Nutcracker* (1995) and Aunt Penniman in *Washington Square* (1979). She also created and was acclaimed for her portrayal of three separate male roles in *An Italian Straw Hat* (2006): Chief of Police, a Countryman and A Butler.

The 2010/11 season is presented by CTV and The Globe and Mail.

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 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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Karen Kain
Artistic Director

For more information, please contact:

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