

Karen Kain  
Artistic Director

Media Release

#27/58

## *Romeo and Juliet* – Perfect for March Break Principal Casting Announced Ballet Talks by Rex Harrington

On Stage  
Four Seasons Centre  
for the Performing Arts

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Charitable  
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February 17, 2009... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, today announced the principal casting for *Romeo and Juliet*, which runs March 11 – 22, 2009 through March Break at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

The opening night performance on March 11 will feature Principal Dancer **Greta Hodgkinson** and Stuttgart Ballet's **Jason Reilly** in the title roles. Mr. Reilly will be joining the National Ballet in the 2009/10 season as the company's newest Principal Dancer.

"Drama and movement in an almost perfect balance." [The Toronto Star](#), 2002

"★★★★★ (out of five) A great story, gorgeous music, spectacular costumes and sets, brilliant choreography and excellent performances... Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet* has it all." [EYE Weekly](#), 2002

This ballet captures the heart of Shakespeare's timeless story of star-crossed lovers with choreography by **John Cranko**, a dramatic score by **Sergei Prokofiev**, sets and costumes by Canadian designer **Susan Benson** and lighting design by **Robert Thomson**.

Pre-show Ballet Talks will be lead by Artist-in-Residence **Rex Harrington** 45 minutes prior to every performance of *Romeo and Juliet*, offering insight and illumination about the ballet.

### Principal Casting

Juliet	<b>Greta Hodgkinson</b> (Mar. 11, 14 at 7:30 pm) <b>Xiao Nan Yu</b> (Mar. 12, 22 at 2:00 pm/ Mar. 20 at 7:30 pm) <b>Sonia Rodriguez</b> (Mar. 12 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 14 at 2:00 pm) <b>Chan Hon Goh</b> (Mar. 13, 21 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 15 at 2:00 pm) <b>Heather Ogden</b> (Mar. 19 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 21 at 2:00 pm)
Romeo	<b>Jason Reilly*</b> (Mar. 11, 14 at 7:30 pm) <b>Patrick Lavoie</b> (Mar. 12 at 2:00 pm) <b>Zdenek Konvalina**</b> (Mar. 12 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 14 at 2:00 pm) <b>Aleksandar Antonijevic</b> (Mar. 13, 21 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 15 at 2:00 pm) <b>Guillaume Côté</b> (Mar. 19 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 21 at 2:00 pm) <b>Nehemiah Kish</b> (Mar. 20 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 22 at 2:00 pm)
Mercutio	<b>Piotr Stanczyk</b> (Mar. 11, 12, 14, 19 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 14, 21 at 2:00 pm) <b>Keiichi Hirano</b> (Mar. 12, 15 at 2:00 pm/ Mar. 13, 21 at 7:30 pm) <b>Richard Landry</b> (Mar. 20 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 22 at 2:00 pm)

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Benvolio	<b>Keiichi Hirano</b> (Mar. 11, 14, 20 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 22 at 2:00 pm) <b>James Leja</b> (Mar. 12, 15 at 2:00 pm/ Mar. 13, 21 at 7:30 pm) <b>Richard Landry</b> (Mar. 12, 19 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 14, 21 at 2:00 pm)
Tybalt	<b>Etienne Lavigne</b> (Mar.11, 13, 14, 20, 21 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 12, 15, 22 at 2:00 pm) <b>Jonathan Renna**</b> (Mar. 12 at 7:30 pm/ Mar.14 at 2:00 pm) <b>Kevin D. Bowles</b> (Mar. 19 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 21 at 2:00 pm)
Paris	<b>Brett van Sickle</b> (Mar. 11, 13, 21 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 15 at 2:00 pm) <b>Aarik Wells</b> (Mar. 12, 22 at 2:00 pm/ Mar. 20 at 7:30 pm) <b>Nan Wang</b> (Mar. 12 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 14 at 2:00 pm) <b>Patrick Lavoie</b> (Mar. 14, 19 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 21 at 2:00 pm)
Lord Capulet	<b>Tomas Schramek</b> (Mar. 11, 13, 14, 20, 21 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 12, 15, 22 at 2:00 pm) <b>Etienne Lavigne</b> (Mar. 12, 19 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 14, 21 at 2:00 pm)
Lady Capulet	<b>Stephanie Hutchison</b> (Mar. 11, 14, 19 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 21 at 2:00 pm) <b>Joanna Ivey*</b> (Mar. 12, 22 at 2:00 pm/ Mar. 20 at 7:30 pm) <b>Alejandra Perez-Gomez</b> (Mar. 12, 13, 21 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 14, 15 at 2:00 pm)
Nurse	<b>Victoria Bertram</b> (Mar. 11, 13, 14, 20, 21 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 12, 15, 22 at 2:00 pm) <b>Lorna Geddes</b> (Mar. 12, 19 at 7:30 pm/ Mar. 14, 21 at 2:00 pm)

\* Guest Artist \*\* Company debut

### ***Romeo and Juliet***

Wednesday, March 11 at 7:30 pm  
Thursday, March 12 at 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm  
Friday, March 13 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, March 14 at 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm  
Sunday, March 15 at 2:00 pm  
Thursday, March 19 at 7:30 pm  
Friday, March 20 at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, March 21 at 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm  
Sunday, March 22 at 2:00 pm

Tickets:

Prices range from \$20 - \$200.

Buy 4 orchestra tickets in section 1.1 for the March 19 or March 20 performances of *Romeo and Juliet* and save 48% with the **March Break 4-Pack**.

Discount rates are available for groups of 10 people or more. Rush seats are available on the day of the performance in person at the box office for \$30. DanceBreak members aged

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16 to 29 can purchase \$20 tickets on the day of the performance, depending on availability. Visit [DanceBreak.ca](http://DanceBreak.ca).

Venue:  
Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen Street West, Toronto.

Box Office:  
The box office is located at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts (145 Queen Street West) or call 416 (toll free 1 866) 345 9595. Tickets can also be purchased online at [national.ballet.ca](http://national.ballet.ca).

Website: [national.ballet.ca](http://national.ballet.ca).

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

This production of *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.

KPMG is the Performance Sponsor for March 13 at 7:30 pm.

CTV is the Performance Sponsor for March 14 at 7:30 pm.

Fairmont Royal York is the Performance Sponsor for March 19 at 7:30 pm.

Gatsby Valet is the Performance Sponsor for March 21 at 7:30 pm.

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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### ONLINE IMAGE LIBRARY:

Media are invited to download photos of *Romeo and Juliet* at <http://national.ballet.ca/media/MediaImageGallery/coppermine/index.php>

**User Name:** Media      **Password:** Media\*Ballet

Please note that the User Name and Password are case sensitive.

This site is for media use only.

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