

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

#3

Debuts in *The Sleeping Beauty* Bridgett Zehr and Jillian Vanstone as Princess Aurora Piotr Stanczyk as Prince Florimund

On Stage
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts

Mailing Address
The Walter Carsen
Centre for
The National Ballet
of Canada
470 Queens Quay West
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5V 3K4

Administration
416 345 9686

Fax
416 345 8323

Website
national.ballet.ca

Charitable
Registration Number
11905 1449 RR0001

October 20, 2009 ... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, today announced the newest generation of dancers who will make their debuts in **Rudolf Nureyev's** the landmark production of *The Sleeping Beauty*, which opens the company's 2009/10 season on November 13, 2009 at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

Newest Principal Dancer **Bridgett Zehr** and First Soloist **Jillian Vanstone** make their debuts as Princess Aurora. Making his debut as Prince Florimund will be Principal Dancer **Piotr Stanczyk**. First Soloist **Tina Pereira**, Second Soloist **Elena Lobsanova** and Corps de Ballet members **Wei Chen** and **Naoya Ebe** will make their debuts dancing the Bluebird pas de deux. Dancing the Diamond pas de deux for the first time will be Corps de Ballet members **Chelsy Meiss** and **James Shee**.

The Sleeping Beauty is a ballet that epitomizes, perhaps better than any other, the meaning of classical ballet. Never simply a retelling of the well-known fairy tale, the ballet is conceivably the greatest of the Tchaikovsky-Petipa collaborations, unparalleled in both its artistic ambitions and its summation of an entire dance culture.

When Mr. Nureyev set *The Sleeping Beauty* on the National Ballet in 1972 it became one of the most significant milestones in the company's history. The work proved the perfect vehicle for many of the company's young dancers, including Veronica Tennant, Karen Kain, Tomas Schramek and Frank Augustyn. They rushed to embrace the challenge and opportunity with a level of eagerness and energy that established the company's international reputation and set the bar for subsequent generations of National Ballet.

The principal casting and performance schedule will be announced shortly.

The Fall Season continues November 25 – 29, 2009 with a mixed programme featuring *The Four Temperaments & Glass Pieces* & World Premiere by Aszure Barton.

The Sleeping Beauty

Friday, November 13 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, November 14 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
Sunday, November 15 at 1:00 pm
Wednesday, November 18 at 7:30 pm
Thursday, November 19 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
Friday, November 20 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, November 21 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
Sunday, November 22 at 2:00 pm

Tickets:

Prices range from \$25 to \$210.

**Audience and
Donor Services**
416 345 9595
1 866 345 9595
tickets@national.ballet.ca

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

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 16 to 29 can purchase specially-priced tickets on the day of the performance, depending on availability. Visit DanceBreak.ca.

On Stage
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts

Mailing Address
The Walter Carsen
Centre for
The National Ballet
of Canada
470 Queens Quay West
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5V 3K4

Administration
416 345 9686

Fax
416 345 8323

Website
national.ballet.ca

Charitable
Registration Number
11905 1449 RR0001

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.

Website: national.ballet.ca.

The 2009/10 season is presented by CTV and The Globe and Mail.

The Sleeping Beauty is made possible by generous contributions from Margaret & Jim Fleck, The Catherine & Maxwell Meighen Foundation, Sandra & Jim Pitblado, Gretchen Ross and Nancy Pencer & Michael Benjamin.

The National Ballet of Canada dedicates the 2009/10 season performances of *The Sleeping Beauty* to the memory of Mona Campbell.

BMO Financial Group presents *The Four Temperaments & Glass Pieces* & World Premiere by Aszure Barton.

The Four Temperaments is a gift from THE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE, THE NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA.

Glass Pieces is a gift from THE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE, THE NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA.

World Premiere by Aszure Barton is generously supported in part by Walter Carsen, O.C.

Bridgett Zehr is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Diana Weatherall.
Elena Lobsanova is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Sandra Faire & Ivan Fecan.
James Shee is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Mona & Harvey Levenstein.

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.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Catherine Chang
Senior Public Relations Manager

Wendy Liebner
Publicity Coordinator

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

416 345 9686 x302
cchang@national.ballet.ca
national.ballet.ca

416 345 9686 x332
wliebner@national.ballet.ca
national.ballet.ca

On Stage
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts

Mailing Address
The Walter Carsen
Centre for
The National Ballet
of Canada
470 Queens Quay West
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5V 3K4

Administration
416 345 9686

Fax
416 345 8323

Website
national.ballet.ca

Charitable
Registration Number
11905 1449 RR0001

**Audience and
Donor Services**
416 345 9595
1 866 345 9595
tickets@national.ballet.ca