

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

#18

60
years

World Premiere of *Romeo and Juliet* by Alexei Ratmansky Opens 60th Anniversary Season *Hamlet* by Kevin O'Day – North American Premiere! Special Events in 2011/12 Season

February 7, 2011... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, today announced the 60th anniversary season which features a new full-length production of *Romeo and Juliet* by **Alexei Ratmansky** and the North American premiere of **Kevin O'Day's** *Hamlet*.

To celebrate the National Ballet's remarkable 60-year history, a season of special events is planned. November 14 – 20, 2011 will be proclaimed **The National Ballet of Canada Week** by His Worship Mayor Rob Ford, coinciding with the opening of an archival display at Toronto City Hall and the world premiere of *Romeo and Juliet*. **The Tutu Project**, featuring 60 tutus from great moments in the company's history and new tutus created by the community, will be displayed throughout the season. Writer and historian **James Neufeld's** acclaimed book, *Power to Rise, The Story of The National Ballet of Canada*, has been updated and will be available in stores in the fall of 2011. **The National Ballet of Canada Orchestra** will have their first-ever concert performance on April 3, 2012 at Koerner Hall, performing select works from the company's repertoire. Additional events will be announced.

The 2011/12 Season

To celebrate the National Ballet's 60th anniversary, the 2011/12 season opens with the world premiere of a new *Romeo and Juliet* by the Russian choreographer **Alexei Ratmansky**. *Romeo and Juliet* has been a signature work since it entered the company's repertoire in 1964 and a new interpretation by the internationally celebrated choreographer is a momentous occasion. *Romeo and Juliet* features designs by the Tony Award-winning **Richard Hudson**, who designed Mr. Ratmansky's new *Nutcracker* for American Ballet Theatre and is best known for his design for *The Lion King*, and lighting by **Jennifer Tipton**, internationally acclaimed for her work in theatre, dance and opera.

"I am excited to be staging the world premiere of *Romeo and Juliet* by Alexei Ratmansky," says Ms. Kain. "His aesthetic – steeped in the Russian school but open to contemporary sources – is ideal both for this work and the company, with its classical heritage and passion for the modern."

Romeo and Juliet has its world premiere November 16, 2011 and all ticket holders will be invited to take part in a special opening night celebration. The production will continue until November 27.

Following *The Nutcracker*, December 10 – 31, 2011, the Winter Season features three full-length ballets: *La Fille mal gardée*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *The Seagull*. **Sir Frederick Ashton's** *La Fille mal gardée* displays the full range of the choreographer's genius February 29 – March 4, 2012. *La Fille mal gardée* was the first of 47 ballets to be sponsored by The Volunteer Committee, the sponsor of the 60th anniversary season.

Celebrating 60 Glorious Years

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The Sleeping Beauty is a ballet that epitomizes, perhaps better than any other, the meaning of classical ballet. **Rudolf Nureyev's** *The Sleeping Beauty*, staged by Karen Kain and refurbished and restored to its original splendour, runs March 10 – 18, 2012.

The Seagull, based on Anton Chekhov's great drama, by acclaimed choreographer and Artistic Director of the Hamburg Ballet **John Neumeier**, returns March 21 – 25, 2012. *The Seagull* was praised by critics when it made its North American premiere in 2008.

The Summer Season opens with the North American premiere of *Hamlet*, June 1 – 10, 2012, by American-born choreographer **Kevin O'Day**, now Artistic Director of Kevin O'Day Nationaltheater Ballett Mannheim.

"Kevin O'Day is one of today's most exciting choreographic voices," says Ms. Kain. "He is fearless in his approach, gifted with a keen understanding of the body's expressive power and willing to wrestle with new ideas and new ways of seeing. Kevin's *Hamlet* is a true tour de force and one of his finest works to date."

Wayne McGregor's *Chroma*, an undeniable hit with critics and audiences alike when it premiered in 2010, is presented with **Maurice Béjart's** moving *Song of a Wayfarer* and **Kenneth MacMillan's** brilliantly comic *Elite Syncopations* June 13 – 17, 2012.

The National Ballet will tour Western Canada with a mixed programme of **William Forsythe's** *the second detail*, **Jerome Robbins'** pas de deux *Other Dances*, **James Kudelka's** *The Man in Black* and **Crystal Pite's** *Emergence*. The company will perform in **Calgary** (September 15 – 17, 2011), **Edmonton** (September 19 – 20, 2011), **Vancouver** (September 23 – 25, 2011), **Victoria** (September 27 – 28, 2011), **Nanaimo** (September 30, 2011) and, after an absence of 14 years, **Winnipeg** (October 4, 2011).

In the spring, the company will tour to the National Arts Centre in **Ottawa** with *The Seagull*, April 12 – 14, 2012.

The Volunteer Committee of The National Ballet of Canada

The Volunteer Committee of The National Ballet of Canada is the sponsor of the 60th anniversary season. The National Ballet is grateful to the many loyal and hardworking members of The Volunteer Committee who have contributed their time, energy and passion to the company over the past 60 years. Since its inception, The Volunteer Committee has raised over \$6 million to fund 47 works, helping to maintain the vitality of the National Ballet and its signature repertoire, supporting dancers, facilitating tours and financing new productions for the company.

The National Ballet of Canada's 2011/12 Season

Touring

the second detail & Other Dances & The Man in Black & Emergence*
September 15 – 17, 2011, Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, Calgary, Alberta
September 19 – 20, 2011, Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, Edmonton, Alberta
September 23 – 25, 2011, Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver, British Columbia
September 27 – 28, 2011, The Royal Theatre, Victoria, British Columbia
September 30, 2011, The Port Theatre, Nanaimo, British Columbia
October 4, 2011, Centennial Concert Hall, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Celebrating 60 Glorious Years

April 12 – 14, 2012, National Arts Centre, Ottawa, Ontario

Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, Toronto

Fall Season

*Romeo and Juliet**

November 16 – 27, 2011

Holiday Season

The Nutcracker

December 10, 2011 – January 3, 2012

Winter Season

La Fille mal gardée

February 29 – March 4, 2012

The Sleeping Beauty

March 10 – 18, 2012

The Seagull

March 21 – 25, 2012

Summer Season

*Hamlet**

June 1 – 10, 2012

Chroma & Song of a Wayfarer & Elite Syncopations

June 13 – 17, 2012

+ World Premiere

* North American Premiere

Tickets: \$25 – \$234, including 13% HST

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

Download The National Ballet of Canada's free iPhone app at the App Store today.

60 Years of Partnership with The Volunteer Committee of The National Ballet of Canada.

The 2011/12 Season is presented by CTV and The Globe and Mail.

BMO Financial Group presents *Romeo and Juliet*.

Lead philanthropic support for *Romeo and Juliet* is provided by Sandra & Jim Pitblado with additional generous support from Sandra Faire & Ivan Fecan, an anonymous friend of the National Ballet and Walter Carsen, O.C.

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Celebrating 60 Glorious Years

TD Bank Group presents *The Nutcracker*.

The Nutcracker is made possible by generous financial support from production underwriters Sandra & Jim Pitblado, Lawrence & Ann Heisey and an anonymous friend of the National Ballet.

La Fille mal gardée is a gift from THE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE, THE NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA.

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 Seagull is generously supported in part by an anonymous friend of the National Ballet.

Chroma & Song of a Wayfarer & Elite Syncopations are presented by KPMG LLP.

the second detail is a gift from THE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE, THE NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA.

Emergence is generously supported by Gail Hutchison.

TD Bank Group is the presenting sponsor of the 2011 Western Canada Tour.

Air Canada is the Official Airline of the 2011 Western Canada Tour.

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.

- 30 -

ONLINE IMAGE LIBRARY:

Media are invited to download photos of The National Ballet of Canada's 2011/12 season at <http://national.ballet.ca/media/MediaImageGallery/coppermine/index.php>

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