

Free Open House The National Ballet of Canada's Grand Opening of The Gretchen Ross Production Centre Sneak Preview of Sets for *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

On Stage
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts

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April 19, 2011... The National Ballet of Canada today announced the grand opening of The Gretchen Ross Production Centre. The public is invited to a free open house on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at 155 Nantucket Boulevard in Scarborough. This is a rare opportunity to see where all the sets for the National Ballet's renowned productions are built as well as meet the talented members of the company's production team.

Sets created by acclaimed designer **Bob Crowley** for the highly anticipated production of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by British Choreographer Christopher Wheeldon will be on display. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* makes its North American premiere on June 4, 2011.

The National Ballet acquired the new building in 2010. The purchase and retrofitting was made possible with leadership gifts from Board Members **Gretchen Ross** and **Jerry Lozinski**, who named the Jerry and Joan Lozinski Carpentry Workshop, as well as the generous support from the Canada Cultural Spaces program of Canadian Heritage.

Together, the grant and gifts cover just over 60% of the \$4.4 million cost of purchasing and retrofitting The Gretchen Ross Production Centre. The National Ballet is currently conducting the Building Great Ballet campaign to raise the remaining \$1.65 million.

The Gretchen Ross Production Centre is a facility large enough for the National Ballet's production requirements. The production centre creates and maintains all of the National Ballet's sets and props. The large facility, at 59,000 square feet, is necessary for the scale and scope to build and maintain large productions such as *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The production centre also houses the National Ballet's welding and wood-working areas, scene painting studio and props studio. As well, the sets and costumes for over 90 productions in the National Ballet's repertoire are stored at the production centre.

To donate to the Building Ballet campaign, visit
http://national.ballet.ca/support/campaigns_BuildingBallet.aspx.

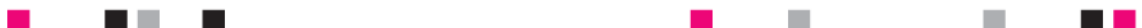
We recommend all visitors wear appropriate footwear.

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

Audience and
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Jiří Jelínek, Heather Ogden, Piotr Stanczyk, Sonia Rodriguez, Aleksandar Antonijevic, Bridgett Zehr, Guillaume Côté, Xiao Nan Yu, Zdenek Konvalina, Greta Hodgkinson. Photos by Sian Richards.



Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Thomson Reuters presents *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Lead philanthropic support provided by an anonymous friend of the National Ballet with additional support generously provided by The Catherine & Maxwell Meighen Foundation, Richard M. Ivey, C.C., Rosamond Ivey and Wallace & Margaret McCain.

Generously supported by The Monument Trust in memory of Simon Sainsbury.

Generous philanthropic support from Sir Simon and Lady Robertson, Sarah and Lloyd Dorfman, Robert and Kathleen Wallace, Celia Blakey, Sue Butcher, Marina Hobson MBE, Peter Lloyd, Kristina Rogge and Richard and Victoria Sharp.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is presented as part of Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity.

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; and the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund.

- 30 -

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