

Romeo and Juliet Opens on November 16 Elena Lobsanova and Guillaume Côté

September 7, 2011... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, today announced that First Soloist **Elena Lobsanova** and Principal Dancer **Guillaume Côté** will perform the title roles in the world premiere of internationally celebrated choreographer **Alexei Ratmansky's** *Romeo and Juliet*. The National Ballet of Canada begins celebrations for the 60th anniversary season with *Romeo and Juliet*, which opens on November 16, 2011 and runs to November 27, 2011 at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto, Canada.

Hailed by the New York Times as "the most in-demand ballet choreographer in the world", Mr. Ratmansky is currently Artist-in-Residence and Artistic Advisor at American Ballet Theatre and the former Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Ballet. The National Ballet audiences were first introduced to Mr. Ratmansky earlier this year with his stunningly beautiful piece, *Russian Seasons*. His unique aesthetic, steeped in the Russian school but open to contemporary sources, is ideal for a new interpretation of *Romeo and Juliet*. Mr. Ratmansky has been in Toronto since July creating the work on the company.

Featuring **Prokofiev's** extraordinary score, the new production is designed by the Tony Award-winning **Richard Hudson**, who collaborated with Mr. Ratmansky on his 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.

Additional casting to be announced.

Subscriptions are still available and the box office opens on Monday, September 26, 2011.

[New *Romeo and Juliet* image gallery >](#)

[Video with Alexei Ratmansky about the creation of *Romeo and Juliet* >](#)

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

Celebrating 60 Years of Partnership with The Volunteer Committee, The National Ballet of Canada

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, The Catherine & Maxwell Meighen Foundation, an anonymous friend of the National Ballet and Walter Carsen, O.C.

Performance Sponsor: Deloitte (November 24 at 7:30 pm).

Elena Lobsanova is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Sandra Faire & Ivan Fecan.
Guillaume Côté is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Emmanuelle Gattuso & Allan Slaight.

60
years

Celebrating 60 Glorious Years

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

60
years

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