



Romeo and Juliet Principal Casting Announced Ballet Talk with Author James Neufeld 300 Alumni Attend Opening Performance

November 2, 2011... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, today announced the principal casting for the world premiere of *Romeo and Juliet* by internationally acclaimed choreographer **Alexei Ratmansky**. *Romeo and Juliet* opens The National Ballet of Canada's 60th anniversary season on November 16, 2011 at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto, Canada.

Performing the title roles are Principal Dancer **Guillaume Côté** and First Soloist **Elena Lobsanova**, First Soloist **McGee Maddox** and Principal Dancer **Heather Ogden**, Principal Dancers **Aleksandar Antonijevic** and **Greta Hodgkinson** and Principal Dancer **Sonia Rodriguez** and Second Soloist **Naoya Ebe**.

Romeo and Juliet is created by Russian choreographer Mr. Ratmansky and features **Prokofiev's** dramatic score, new costumes and sets by award-winning designer **Richard Hudson**, best known for his design for *The Lion King*, and lighting by internationally acclaimed designer **Jennifer Tipton**.

On November 16, to celebrate the company's 60th anniversary, the National Ballet will host a special reception for 300 alumni, including **Frank Augustyn**, **Jennifer Fournier**, **Lilian Jarvis**, **Charles Kirby**, **Brian Macdonald**, **Mavis Staines**, **Grant Strate** and **Veronica Tennant**, in the lobby of the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

BMO Financial Group, the presenting sponsor of *Romeo and Juliet*, is hosting a 60th anniversary opening night celebration dinner for BMO Financial Group guests, *Romeo and Juliet* underwriters, Prima Circle Members and the *Romeo and Juliet* artistic team in the Henry N. R. Jackman Lounge of the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

The opening night Ballet Talk features writer and historian **James Neufeld** who will introduce his new book chronicling the history of the National Ballet, *Passion to Dance*. Mr. Neufeld will sign books during the intermissions. **Carol Bishop Gwyn**, author of the new biography *The Pursuit of Perfection: A Life of Celia Franca*, and YOU dance Artistic Director/Ballet Master **Lindsay Fischer** will host additional Ballet Talks. Ballet Talks take place 45 minutes prior to the curtain in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre and are free for all ticket holders.

Principal Casting

Romeo	Guillaume Côté (Nov. 16, 19, 23 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 26 at 2:00 pm) McGee Maddox (Nov. 17, 24 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 20 at 2:00 pm) Aleksandar Antonijevic (Nov. 18, 26 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 24 at 2:00 pm) Naoya Ebe (Nov. 19 at 2:00 pm/ Nov. 22, 25 at 7:30 pm) Brendan Saye (Nov. 27 at 2:00 pm)
Juliet	Elena Lobsanova (Nov. 16, 19, 23 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 26 at 2:00 pm) Heather Ogden (Nov. 17, 24 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 20 at 2:00 pm) Greta Hodgkinson (Nov. 18, 26 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 24 at 2:00 pm) Sonia Rodriguez (Nov. 19 at 2:00 pm/ Nov. 22, 25 at 7:30 pm) Chelsy Meiss (Nov. 27 at 2:00 pm)

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

60
years

Celebrating 60 Glorious Years

Mercutio	Piotr Stanczyk (Nov. 16, 18, 19, 23, 26 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 24, 26 at 2:00 pm) Jonathan Renna (Nov. 17, 24 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 20 at 2:00 pm) Keiichi Hirano (Nov. 19 at 2:00 pm/ Nov. 22, 25 at 7:30 pm)
Benvolio	Robert Stephen (Nov. 16, 18, 19, 23, 26 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 24, 26 at 2:00 pm) Christopher Stalzer (Nov. 17, 24 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 20 at 2:00 pm) Dylan Tedaldi (Nov. 19 at 2:00 pm/ Nov. 22, 25 at 7:30 pm)
Tybalt	Jiří Jelinek (Nov. 16, 17, 19, 23, 24 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 20, 26 at 2:00 pm) Etienne Lavigne (Nov. 18, 26 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 24 at 2:00 pm) Kevin D. Bowles (Nov. 19, at 2:00 pm/ Nov. 22, 25 at 7:30 pm)
Paris	Patrick Lavoie (Nov. 16, 17, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 19, 20, 24, 26 at 2:00 pm) Brett van Sickle (Nov.18, 26 at 7:30 pm/Nov. 24 at 2:00 pm)
Lord Capulet	Etienne Lavigne (Nov. 16, 17, 19, 23, 24 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 20, 26 at 2:00 pm) Kevin D. Bowles (Nov. 18, 26 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 24 at 2:00 pm) Jonathan Renna (Nov. 19 at 2:00 pm/ Nov. 22, 25 at 7:30 pm)
Lady Capulet	Joanna Ivey* (Nov. 16, 17, 19, 23, 24 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 20, 26 at 2:00 pm) Stephanie Hutchison (Nov. 18, 26 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 24 at 2:00 pm) Alejandra Perez-Gomez (Nov. 19 at 2:00 pm/ Nov. 22, 25 at 7:30 pm)
Lord Montague	Aarik Wells (Nov. 16, 17, 19, 23, 24 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 20, 26 at 2:00 pm) James Leja (Nov. 18, 22, 25, 26 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 19, 24 at 2:00 pm)
Lady Montague	Juri Hiraoka (Nov. 16, 17, 19, 23, 24 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 20, 26 at 2:00 pm) Lise-Marie Jourdain (Nov. 18, 22, 25, 26 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 19, 24 at 2:00 pm)
Duke of Verona	Rex Harrington (Nov. 16, 17, 19, 23, 24 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 20, 26 at 2:00 pm) Peter Ottmann (Nov. 18, 22, 25, 26 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 19, 24, 26, 27 at 2:00 pm)
Friar Lawrence	Peter Ottmann (Nov. 16, 17, 19, 23, 24 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 20, 26 at 2:00 pm) Tomas Schramek (Nov. 18, 22, 25, 26 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 19, 24, 26, 27 at 2:00 pm)
Nurse	Lorna Geddes (Nov. 16, 19, 22, 23, 25 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 19, 26 at 2:00 pm) Alejandra Perez-Gomez (Nov. 17, 24 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 20 at 2:00 pm) Rebekah Rimsay (Nov. 18, 26 at 7:30 pm/ Nov. 24 at 2:00 pm)

*Guest artist

All casting is subject to change.

[Romeo and Juliet image gallery >](#)

[Romeo and Juliet videos >](#)

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* and Opening Night Celebrations.

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: CTV (November 22 at 7:30 pm), Deloitte (November 24 at 7:30 pm).

Guillaume Côté is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Emmanuelle Gattuso & Allan Slaight. Elena Lobsanova is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Sandra Faire & Ivan Fecan. Heather Ogden is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Ira Gluskin & Maxine Granovsky Gluskin. Keiichi Hirano is sponsored through *Dancers First* by an anonymous donor. Robert Stephen is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Mr. Thor Eaton & The Honourable Nicole Eaton, Senator.

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