

Great Moments in the National Ballet's Remarkable 60-year History

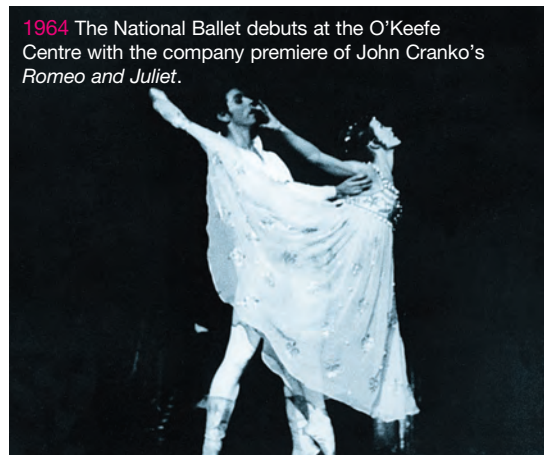
1951 Programme from the first performance on November 12.

THE NATIONAL BALLET GUILD OF CANADA



presents...
THE CANADIAN NATIONAL Ballet COMPANY
EATON AUDITORIUM
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday — November 12, 13, 14, 1951
8.30 p.m.

1964 The National Ballet debuts at the O'Keefe Centre with the company premiere of John Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet*.



Earl Kraul and Galina Samsova

1967 The National Ballet premieres Erik Bruhn's *Swan Lake*, which was also recorded for broadcast by the CBC the same year.



Lois Smith and Erik Bruhn

Celebrating 60 Glorious Years!

“A beautiful company, full of young talent and old wisdom...
The future of The National Ballet of Canada is in wonderful hands.”
—Dancing Times (UK), 2010

1951 Celia Franca arrives



It all began with the love of dance. Three Toronto volunteer organizers – Sydney Mulqueen, Pearl Whitehead and Aileen Woods – dreamed of a national ballet company. They sought the advice of Ninette de Valois, the pioneering founder of Britain's Sadler's Wells Ballet and she recommended a dramatic dancer, budding choreographer and firebrand named Celia Franca “–if you can get her.” They could and did get her. “I think you need me here” was her tactful judgment. The National Ballet of Canada was founded and, with Miss Franca as Artistic Director, made its debut on November 12, 1951 at the Eaton Auditorium in Toronto. The National Ballet of Canada now ranks as one of the world's top dance companies with 70 dancers and its own orchestra.

1972 Rudolf Nureyev's *The Sleeping Beauty* premieres. The company tours the production across the US and Canada culminating in a triumphant debut at New York City's Metropolitan Opera House.




Veronica Tennant and Rudolf Nureyev

1976 Sir Frederick Ashton stages *La Fille mal gardée*, the first of 47 ballets over the next 35 years to be sponsored by the Volunteer Committee's Build-a-Ballet Fund.




Nadia Potts and Tomas Schiramek

1988 The First International Competition for The Erik Bruhn Prize is held.



Karen Kain, Errol Pickford and Glen Tetley

1995 James Kudelka's new production of *The Nutcracker* premieres. Over 815,000 people have attended since 1995.



Martine Lamy and Rex Harrington

1997 For her retirement after 28 years with the National Ballet, Karen Kain performs James Kudelka's *The Actress* at the Hummingbird Centre and embarks on a farewell tour across Canada.



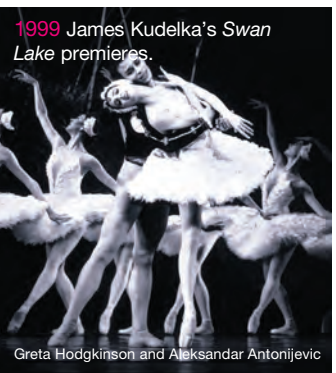
Karen Kain and Rex Harrington

1997 James Kudelka's *The Four Seasons* premieres.



Rex Harrington

1999 James Kudelka's *Swan Lake* premieres.



Greta Hodgkinson and Aleksandar Antonijevic

2001/02 The National Ballet celebrates its 50th anniversary with a season of landmark ballets from its history.



Karen Kain, Veronica Tennant, Celia Franca, Alexander Grant, Lynn Wallis, James Kudelka


November 9, 2006 The National Ballet moves to the Four Seasons Centre and a new era begins. For the first performance in the company's new home, Artistic Director Karen Kain restages Rudolf Nureyev's *The Sleeping Beauty*.




Greta Hodgkinson

Artistic Directors

60 years



1951–1973
1975–1976
Celia Franca




1973–1974
Celia Franca and David Haber



1974–1975
David Haber



1976–1983
Alexander Grant



1983–1986
Erik Bruhn



1986–1989
Valerie Wilder and Lynn Wallis



1989–1996
Reid Anderson



1996–2005
James Kudelka



2005–present
Karen Kain