

BALLET BRITISH COLUMBIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 19, 2009

Ballet British Columbia presents ***IGNITE***

An evening of celebration and new beginnings
featuring Ballet British Columbia and The National Ballet of Canada

Vancouver, BC – Ballet British Columbia returns to the stage under the new artistic direction of Emily Molnar with the presentation of the celebratory gala *IGNITE*, September 30, 2009 at 8pm at the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre. The evening will include an innovative new work choreographed by Molnar for Ballet British Columbia, as well as mixed repertoire by Principal dancers and soloists from The National Ballet of Canada (NBOC). VIP packages will be available, which include a pre-show fundraiser dinner at The Metropolitan Hotel, the “best seat in the house” for the performance, and a post show reception with artists from both companies, NBOC Artistic Director Karen Kain, and Molnar.

“This is an incredibly exciting time of development and growth for the company,” said Emily Molnar, Ballet British Columbia Artistic Director. “*IGNITE* promises to be an important creative springboard for a stronger, more vibrant Ballet BC, and will showcase the company’s new era of contemporary ballet. We are honoured to have The National Ballet of Canada’s enthusiastic support during this period of transition and new beginnings.”

In addition to the new work choreographed by Molnar and performed by Ballet British Columbia, *IGNITE* will also include George Balanchine’s *Apollo*, and a Pas De Deux from both *The Sleeping Beauty Act 3* and *Lady of the Camellias*, performed by NBOC Principal dancers and soloists.

Tickets for *IGNITE* will be on sale to Ballet British Columbia subscribers *only* from August 19 to 26, 2009, and then to the public starting August 27, 2009 - available exclusively through Ballet British Columbia, www.balletbc.com, or by calling 604-732-5003 x 207. Tickets will be priced as follows:

- VIP package, including Pre-Show dinner, “Best Seat in the House”, and Post Show Reception: \$250
- Performance and Post Show Reception only: \$98 (all taxes and surcharges included)
- Gala Performance only: \$88 (all taxes and surcharges included)

About the Gala

Ballet British Columbia will present a new full company work, choreographed by Molnar, featuring musical excerpts from *L’Estro Armanico* by Antonio Vivaldi. Inspired by the potential of both the company and its dancers, the piece is described by Molnar as “visceral and dynamic, coupled with powerful movement that evokes the expression of the body while celebrating the beauty of the creative spirit.” A contemporary ballet in the truest form, Molnar collaborated with Ballet British Columbia’s dancers in creating the work, which focuses heavily on the individuality of each performer.

The National Ballet of Canada's Principal dancers Guillaume Cote and Sonia Rodriguez, with Soloists Stacey Shiori Minagawa and Jillian Vanstone will perform the classic George Balanchine work *Apollo* - about the young god of music and his three muses: Calliope, Polyhymnia, and Terpsichore. Featuring intricate choreography, powerfully evocative imagery, and the neoclassical style for which Balanchine is still renowned, *Apollo* is widely regarded as the turning point of Balanchine's life "in its sustained oneness of tone and feeling."

Also on the program, The National Ballet of Canada's Principal dancers Sonia Rodriguez and Piotr Stanczyk will bring to life excerpts from the tragic love story *Lady of the Camellias*. Choreographed by Val Caniparoli with original concert music by Frédéric Chopin, *Lady of the Camellias* is a moving tale of extravagance, deception, revenge, and the selfless giving that can only be borne of true love. Filled with Caniparoli's rich and inventive choreography, *Lady of the Camellias* has exactly the right gesture for every shade of emotion.

Finally, Marius Petipa and Rudolf Nureyev's *The Sleeping Beauty Pas de Deux* from Act 3 will be performed by The National Ballet of Canada's Principal dancers Heather Ogden and Guillaume Cote. The National Ballet of Canada's Artistic Director Karen Kain restaged this seminal duet, set to Tchaikovsky's instantly recognizable sweeping score. The timeless tale of Princess Aurora and the handsome prince who awakens her from a 100-year sleep has been delighting audiences for more than 30 years.

About Ballet British Columbia (www.balletbc.com)

Founded in 1986, Ballet British Columbia is an internationally acclaimed dance company that is a leader in contemporary ballet within Canada. Bold, innovative, and sophisticated, the Vancouver-based company's distinctive style and approach to the art form has helped the company make a unique and valuable contribution to the development of dance.

Consisting of a select group of 15 dancers from around the globe, Ballet British Columbia presents a diverse repertoire of Canadian and international contemporary ballet from the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

In addition to a number of international tours, Ballet BC's notable programs include Artist in Residency, company apprenticeship, outreach initiatives for students, as well as the always-popular Studio Series, Pre-show Chats, and Artist Talks.

Under the new artistic direction of Emily Molnar, former member of The National Ballet of Canada, Ballet British Columbia, and the Frankfurt Ballet, the company looks forward to fostering collaborations that support artists, choreographers, and audiences alike, furthering the boundaries of contemporary ballet.

For more information about Ballet BC's upcoming season, please visit www.balletbc.com.

About The National Ballet of Canada (www.national.ballet.ca)

With more than 70 dancers and its own orchestra, The National Ballet of Canada ranks as one of the world's top international dance companies. Established as a classical company by founder Celia Franca in 1951, it is the only Canadian ballet company to present a full range of traditional full-length classics. In addition to its classical repertoire, the company also embraces contemporary works and encourages the creation of new ballets and the development of Canadian choreographers. In its 59-year history Canada's premier dance company has performed for over 10 million people.

Reference:

Laura Murray

Media Relations

Curve Communications

T: 604-684-3170 x112

C: 604-306-0027

E: lauramurray@curvecommunications.com