

## You are invited to the *La Sylphide* dress rehearsal!

Alumni and a guest are invited to attend the dress rehearsal of *La Sylphide*, the work that, more than any other, established many of the central themes and conventions of Romantic ballet.

Date: **Tuesday, March 1, 2016**

Time (subject to change):

Doors Open at **7:00 pm**

Ballet Talk at **7:15 pm**

Dress Rehearsal at **8:00 pm**

Location: **Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts**

**RSVP deadline:** Monday, February 22, 2016

**RSVP by phone:** Call 416 (1 866) 345 9595 and provide your account number and full name

*\* Maximum two tickets per alumnus. Seating is limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets will be available for pick up at the Box Office one week before the performance. To have your tickets sent directly to you, please provide us with an email address and your tickets will be emailed to you to print at home no later than three days prior to the rehearsal.*

## The Nutcracker Turns 20

Former Artistic Director James Kudelka choreographed *The Nutcracker* 20 years ago and it premiered on December 21, 1995. Having performed in Celia Franca's production as a child at Canada's National Ballet School and later as a member of the Corps de Ballet with the company, James dedicated his production to Celia Franca and Betty Oliphant. *The Nutcracker* has become a seasonal family tradition, seen by more than a million people since it opened 20 years ago. Some of the original cast gathered at the dress rehearsal to celebrate this milestone.



Martine Lamy and Rex Harrington. Je-an Salas, Sophie Letendre, Greta Hodgkinson, Aleksandar Antonijevic, Jeremy Ransom, Victoria Bertram, Martine Lamy, Rex Harrington, Hazaros Surmeyan, Rebekah Rimsay, Tomas Schramek, Lorna Geddes, Joanna Ivey and Sonia Rodriguez. Photos by Bruce Zinger.

### Where Are You Now?

If you would like to share an update we would love to post a message on our website for your fans and other alumni to see. The National Ballet of Canada welcomes postings from all dancer, musician and staff alumni. Include your name (current name and maiden or stage name, if applicable), the years you performed or worked with the company, what you have done since you left and what you are doing now. Please keep your message to 25–50 words (we reserve the right to edit submissions for length and clarity). Your email address or website can also be included alongside your posting.

**Email:** [alumni@national.ballet.ca](mailto:alumni@national.ballet.ca) **Mail:** Attention: Alumni at The Walter Carsen Centre **Phone:** 416 (1 866) 345 9595

# Long Service Honours with The National Ballet of Canada

## Long Service Honours

Congratulations to Wardrobe Supervisor **Marjory Fielding**, Assistant Wardrobe Coordinator **Grant Heaps**, Scheduling Coordinator **Sophie Letendre**, Principal Violist **Angela Rudden** and Wig and Makeup Supervisor **Charles Seminerio** for 20 years of service. Artistic Director Karen Kain presented them with gold long service pins at the 2014/15 Annual General Meeting on October 29, 2015.

A number of other milestone anniversaries were recognized: Principal Character Artists **Hazaros Surmeyan** was recognized for 50 years of performances with the National Ballet and **Rebekah Rimsay** for 25 years. In addition, Hornist **Derek Conrod**, Violinist **Jayne Maddison**, Principal Pianist **Janis Neilson**, Principal Harpist **Lucie Parent**, Principal Bassist **Hans Preuss**, Violinist **Wendy Rogers**, Director of Production **James Thornley** and Associate Director of Audience and Donor Services **Veronica McLellan** all celebrated 25 years with the company. Recognized for 30 years of service were Principal Cellist **Maurizio Baccante**, Contra Bassoonist **Elizabeth Gowan** and Bass Clarinetist **Gary Kidd**. Principal Trombonist **David Archer** marked 35 years of service.

Recently the company said farewell to a number of familiar faces. Long-time Stage Manager **Ernest Abugov** retired at the end of the 2014/15 season after 42 years. Ernie was known for his good spirits, sense of humour and professionalism backstage. During the summer another long-time member of the production team, **Stephen Chadwick** retired after 47 years with the company. Stephen was instrumental in the move to The Walter Carsen Centre, focusing solely on facilities management for the last decade.

Several dancers also retired at the end of the 2014/15 season: First Soloist **Keiichi Hirano** (now attending the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology studying Electrical Engineering); First Soloist **Patrick Lavoie** (now pursuing a degree in Life Science from the University of Toronto); Second Soloist **Christopher Stalzer** (now attending the University of Toronto to complete a degree in Economics); Corps de Ballet member **Juri Hiraoka** (now exploring various opportunities including ballet education); and Corps de Ballet member **James Leja** (now pursuing a degree in Computer Science at the University of Toronto).

Patrick Lavoie, James Leja, Keiichi Hirano, Ernest Abugov, Christopher Stalzer and Juri Hiraoka during the curtain call following the final performance of *The Sleeping Beauty* (2015). Photo by Bruce Zinger.



## 2015 In Memoriam



**Neil Fennell**, Staff  
(1935–2015)



**Linda Fletcher**,  
Dancer  
(1947–2015)



**Colleen Kenney**,  
Dancer  
(1933–2014)



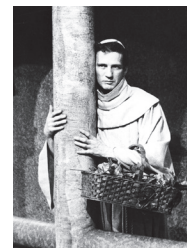
**Brian Macdonald**,  
C.C., Dancer  
(1928–2014)



**Joseph Pepper**,  
Musician  
(1923–2015)



**Leonard Stepanick**,  
Dancer  
(1937–2015)



**Grant Strate**, Dancer, Staff  
and Resident Choreographer  
(1927–2015)

Photos: Neil Fennell. Linda Fletcher in *Concerto Barocco*. Colleen Kenney (ca. 1954). Brian Macdonald (ca. 1980). Joseph Pepper (ca. 1980). Leonard Stepanick and Lorna Geddes in *Swan Lake* (1967). Grant Strate in *Romeo and Juliet* (ca. 1964). Photos by Ken Bell and Anthony Crickmay.

## Help Make History

The National Ballet Archives and the Erik Bruhn Library contain thousands of items that tell the stories of The National Ballet of Canada. The Archives' many collections continue to develop thanks to generous gifts. If you would like to help preserve the company's history, we gratefully accept donations of National Ballet related material including:

- » Letters
- » Professional papers
- » Memoirs/reminiscences/diaries
- » Films/videos/audio tapes (labeled)
- » Scrapbooks
- » Costumes/costume items
- » Photographs/photo albums (labeled)
- » Footwear

To make a donation of dance-related material please call the Archives at **416 345 9686 x365**.

## Alumni Ticket Offer

National Ballet Alumni are able to purchase discounted tickets for all performances using their Alumni I.D. Card.

**Cost:** 50% off the regular price, as of 12:00 pm the day before the performance.

**Section:** Any available seat as of 12:00 pm the day before the performance, excluding the Grand Ring and section 5.2 in Ring 5.

For full details and information on how to take advantage of this offer visit [national.ballet.ca/Meet/Alumni](http://national.ballet.ca/Meet/Alumni)