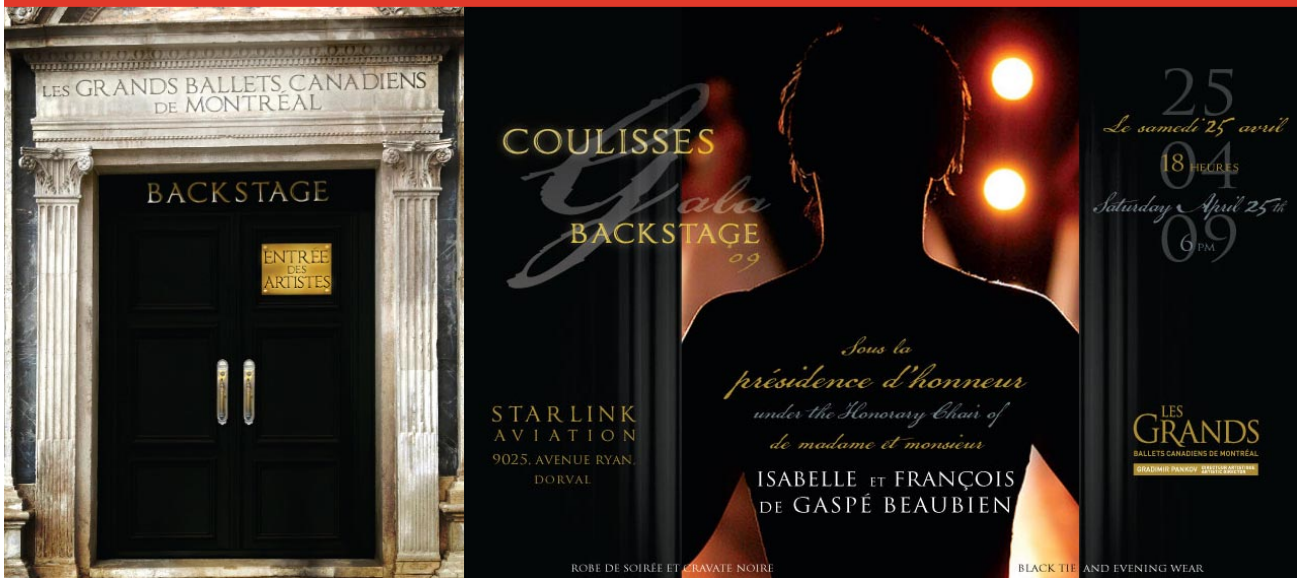


NEWS

For immediate release

LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL 2009 BENEFIT GALA YOU ARE INVITED BACKSTAGE WITH THE COMPANY



Montréal, April 9, 2009 – With the theme “Backstage with Les Grands,” the 2009 Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal benefit gala will take place on Saturday, April 25, starting at 6 p.m. in a hangar at the private airport of Starlink Aviation, a Canadian company that provides the full range of aviation services. This unique location will be transformed for the occasion into a ballroom and decorated with props and sets from various Grands Ballets shows.

“It is with great pride that my husband and I agreed to preside over the annual gala of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal,” says Isabelle de Gaspé Beaubien, who is chairing the evening’s host committee along with her husband, François de Gaspé Beaubien, President and CEO of Zoom Media. “In the current difficult economic situation, it is crucial and necessary that we support this institution, which is a jewel of Montréal’s artistic and cultural heritage.”

The gala will begin with a cocktail, followed by a gourmet supper and dancing. The evening’s program, emceed by Winston McQuade, will include the performance of excerpts from Ohad Naharin’s *Minus One*, a work created for Les Grands Ballets that, since its première in 2002, has stunned critics and audiences everywhere. *Minus One* will be performed once again during Les Grands Ballets’ next season at Place des Arts, in May 2010. The gala festivities will continue to the sounds of Nancy Martinez’s band and the group Alter Ego, who will keep partygoers dancing all night. A number of door prizes will be drawn, including a trip for two to a destination in Europe.

The price for tables ranges from \$6,000 to \$25,000. Individual tickets are \$600. The Bank of Montréal, Britton Electric Company, Sun Life Financial, the De Gaspé Beaubien Foundation, Pomerleau Construction, Interinvest Consulting Corporation of Canada and Power Corporation have all purchased tables at \$25,000. More than 500 people are expected to attend, and this year’s goal is to raise \$520,000 to fund Les Grands Ballets’ creations.



Solidly anchored in its community, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal believes that dance offers spectators the opportunity to be moved – differently. The not-for-profit organization is devoted to the creation and performance of shows, as well as to education that reflects the many facets of today’s ballet. To increase its visibility, it relies on the loyalty of its audiences and on crucial external financing, which represents about 20% of its total budget. The generous support of loyal partners from the private sector not only provides the company with financial stability, but also helps it look to the future with optimism and to maintain the tradition of excellence and innovation for which it has been renowned for 53 years in Montréal and throughout the world.

In short, Les Grands Ballets and its 39 dancers give more than 70 performances each year, nearly one-third of which are given abroad. Some 110,000 people attend a Grands Ballets show each year.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal enjoys the financial support of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Conseil des arts de Montréal.

**For information and reservations, contact Pierre-Marie Colin
at (514) 849-8681, ext. 255 or at pcolin@grandsballets.com.**

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Information: Isabelle Gagnon, Press Officer
514 849-8681, ext. 230
igagnon@grandsballets.com

Francine Arsenault Communications Director
514 849-8681, ext. 227
farsenault@grandsballets.com

www.grandsballets.com