

NEWS

For immediate release

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal a smashing success in Tel Aviv

Montréal, June 1, 2009 – Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal kicked off its Middle East tour in brilliant style on the outdoor stage of Tel Aviv's Suzanne Dellal Centre for Dance and Theatre, performing two major pieces from its repertoire: **Noces** by Stijn Celis and **Cantata** by Mauro Bigonzetti. The company is visiting Israel during celebrations marking three milestones: the City of Tel Aviv's 100th anniversary, the 60th anniversary of bilateral relations between Canada and the State of Israel, and the 20th anniversary of the Suzanne Dellal Centre, the country's main dance hub.

Les Grands Ballets thrilled the audience of 1,300 with the wild Balkan celebration that is **Noces** and the strong Mediterranean flavour of **Cantata**. The latter is a visceral work set to Neapolitan music performed live by the Italian singers of the group Assurd, who set the room on fire just as they did in Paris in 2008, winning repeated cheers from the spectators. Les Grands Ballets' 39 superb dancers captured spectators' hearts with their incredible energy and virtuosity, which garnered them numerous curtain calls at the end of the performance.

Les Grands Ballets' history-making first show in the Middle East was also marked by a prestigious gala attended by more than 250 guests. The evening took place in a wonderfully warm atmosphere with his Excellency Jon Allen, Ambassador of Canada to Israel, and Michèle Séguev, Consul General of Israel in Canada, in attendance, along with numerous personalities from the City of Tel Aviv, as well as representatives of the Montréal business community.

This visit to the Middle East is a stunning victory for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, which moved mountains to surmount financial obstacles and to mobilize all its energy to make the tour happen. The tour of the Middle East is one of the high points in the company's history, and once again confirms its undeniable appeal on the international scene.

Noces and **Cantata** will also be presented at the **Jerusalem Centre for the Performing Arts** on **June 5** during the Israel Festival, and at the **Cairo Opera** on **June 9, 10, 11 and 12**.

This tour was made possible thanks, among others, to the special support of the Government of Québec.

– 30 –

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