

NEWS

For immediate release

LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL WELCOMES NEW DANCERS

Montréal, August 17, 2009 – Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal is pleased to welcome seven new dancers into its ranks for the 2009–2010 season: demi-soloists **Mathieu Rouvière** and **André Silva** as well as five members of the corps de ballet, **Bryna Catherine Pascoe**, **Xuan Cheng**, **Emma Garau Cima**, **Ye Li** and **Kenji Matsuyama Ribeiro**.

MATHIEU ROUVIÈRE AND ANDRÉ SILVA, DEMI-SOLOISTS

Born in France, **Mathieu Rouvière** began to dance at age 11 and placed first in his cohort at École Nationale Supérieure de Danse de Marseille, founded by Roland Petit. He worked in turn at Jeune Ballet de France (Director: Roland Berthier); Zurich Opera House Ballet (Director: Heinz Spoerli) as a soloist, where he performed the classical repertoire; and lastly at Compañía Nacional de Danza in Madrid, under the direction of Nacho Duato, where he danced all the pieces of the director's repertoire as well as works by Mats Ek, Jiří Kylián, William Forsythe and Wim Vandekeybus, among others.

Born in Brazil, **André Silva** was trained in dance at Royal Academia de Ballet e Dança de Brasília and at Centro Pro-Danza in Havana, under the direction of Laura Alonso. He pursued his training in the United States, successively at Orlando Ballet School and Harid Conservatory in Boca Raton, and at Houston Ballet Academy. He became principal dancer at Texas Ballet Theater and performed the lead roles in the ballets of Artistic Director and choreographer Ben Stevenson: *Dracula*, *Coppelia*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Swan Lake*, *Cleopatra*, *Peer Gynt* and *The Nutcracker*.

BRYNA CATHERINE PASCOE, XUAN CHENG, EMMA GARAU CIMA, YE LI AND KENJI MATSUYAMA RIBEIRO, CORPS DE BALLETS

Born in the United States, **Bryna Catherine Pascoe** studied at Ballet Arts Minnesota and at Juilliard School in New York City. After graduating, she became a member of Compagnia Aterballetto under the artistic direction of Mauro Bigonzetti and later Cristina Bozzolini. She has danced the works of Adam Houghland, Lauri Stallings, Mauro Bigonzetti, Walter Matteini, Ohad Naharin, Nacho Duato and William Forsythe.

Born in Hunan province in China, **Xuan Cheng** was trained at Guangzhou Ballet School and at Xing Hai College of Music and Dance. She joined the corps de ballet of Guangzhou Ballet in 2000 and became principal soloist in 2006. With the company, she performed in the main works of the classical repertoire, as well as in contemporary works by Chinese choreographers, including Xin Nan and Gao Chengmin. In 2006, she settled in Montréal and became a member of La La La Human Steps. She took part in that company's *Amjad* tour until last spring.

Spanish dancer **Emma Garau Cima** first studied at Artemis Plaja school in Tarragona, then attended Madrid's Real Conservatorio Profesional de Danza. In 2006, she became a member of the Compañía Nacional de Danza 2 troupe in Madrid, for which she has danced, among others, several choreographies in Nacho Duato's repertoire, including *Remensos*, *Jardi Tanca*, *Gnawa*, *Rassemblement* and *Coming Together*. In 2008, she joined La Mov Compañía de Danza, under the direction of Victor Jiménez.



Ye Li is also from China. He received his training at the dance school of Shenyang Music Institute, and at Xing Hai College of Music and Dance. He joined the corps de ballet of Guangzhou Ballet and was promoted to soloist in 2004. He has performed a number of pieces from the classical repertoire as well as the main productions of Guangzhou Ballet.

Portuguese dancer **Kenji Matsuyama Ribeiro** studied at Dance Studio in Bologna, Italy, then at the Royal Conservatory for Music and Dance in The Hague, Netherlands. Since completing his studies he has been, in turn, a member of Ballet d'Europe (Director: Jean-Charles Gil), Compañía Nacional de Danza 2 (2004–2007), Ballet Carmen Roche, and most recently La Mov Compañía de Danza (2008–2009; Director: Victor Jiménez). He has performed several works by Nacho Duato, from the classical repertory, as well as by Hans Van Manen, Jiří Kylián, Jean-Charles Gil, Régis Obadia and Tony Fabre, among others.

PROMOTIONS

Les Grands Ballets is pleased to announce the following appointments: female demi-soloists **Lénaïg Guégan, Vanesa Montoya** and **Isabelle Paquette** have been promoted to **soloists**; male demi-soloists **Robert Deskins, Guillaume Pruneau** and **Raul Salamanca** have been promoted to **soloists**; and lastly, apprentices **Graziella Lorriaux** and **Russell Lepley** have been promoted to the **corps de ballet**.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal now numbers 35 dancers. The company consists of female dancers **Rachel Rufer** (principal); **Callye A. Robinson** (first soloist); **Émilie Durville, Lénaïg Guégan, Robin Mathes, Vanesa G. R. Montoya** and **Isabelle Paquette** (soloists); **Marie-Ève Lapointe, Marisa Pauloni** and **Alisia Pobega** (demi-soloists); **Xuan Cheng, Emma Garau Cima, Sarah Gibson, Graziella Lorriaux, Thaïs Martinez Fraga, Bryna Catherine Pascoe, Aline Schürger** and **Annie Shreffler** (corps de ballet); and male dancers **Jesús Corrales, Hervé Courtain** and **Jeremy Raia** (first soloists); **Edi Blloshmi, Jean-Sébastien Couture, Robert Deskins, Jérémy Galdeano, Marcin Kaczorowski, Guillaume Pruneau** and **Raul Salamanca** (soloists); **Mathieu Rouvière** and **André Silva** (demi-soloists); and lastly, **Dario Giuseppe Dinuzzi, Russell Lepley, Ye Li, Kenji Matsuyama Ribeiro** and **Karell Williams** (corps de ballet).

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal bids a very warm welcome to its new members, and congratulates the dancers who have been promoted.

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