

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

GRADIMIR PANKOV CELEBRATES 10 YEARS AT THE HELM OF LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL A FLAWLESS JOURNEY



Photo: John Hall

Montreal, October 14, 2009 – Gradimir Pankov has chosen to celebrate the 10th anniversary of his appointment as artistic director of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal by presenting, throughout the 2009-10 season, works that hold a special meaning for him. Running the gamut from Jean-Christophe Maillot's *Romeo and Juliet* to Ohad Naharin's *Minus One* – with Jiří Kylián's *Symphony of Psalms*, *Bella Figura* and *Six Dances*, and Fernand Nault's *The Nutcracker*, along the way – Pankov will share with audiences his all-time favourites.

Passionate about dance for 54 years, Pankov, originally from Macedonia, started out as a brilliant dancer in the former Yugoslavia and Germany, going on to serve as artistic director of the Nederlands Dans Theater II (the Netherlands), the National Ballet of Finland (Helsinki), the Ballet Cullberg (Sweden), and the Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève (Switzerland), in addition to being a guest instructor at a number of international ballet companies.

With this impressive track record, Pankov has, in the past 10 years, breathed new life into Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, which has grown from a repertory company into a major institution with a solid international reputation for contemporary creations. Over the past decade, During this time, he has commissioned over thirty ballets, including 13 works specially created for Les GBCM.

DISCOVER GRADIMIR

As of now, learn more about Gradimir Pankov at www.grandsballets.com through four articles by journalist and writer Aline Apostolska, along with a slide show.

On Saturdays, October 17, March 20 and May 8, at 12:30 p.m., attend **Saturdays with Gradimir Pankov** at **Théâtre Maisonneuve**, Place des Arts, and discover, through the eyes of Les Grands Ballets' Artistic Director, the multiple facets of contemporary ballet. Admission is free for Les Grands Ballets subscribers and \$10 for other participants.

On Tuesday, November 3, at 7 p.m., join us at the studios of **Les Grands Ballets** (4816 Rivard Street), where Aline Apostolska will be talking to Gradimir Pankov as part of **Faces of Dance**, a new series showcasing key figures in contemporary dance who tell their life story. Free admission.

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