



ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009 SEASON

Mimus One - PHOTO - Jesús Vallinas

LES
GRANDS

BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL

GRADIMIR PANKOV ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR

MISSION STATEMENT

An internationally renowned company, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal is dedicated to the development of ballet in all its forms, while never losing sight of the foundations and discipline of classical ballet.

As a leader in the cultural sector, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal stands out for its commitment to the creation of works by up-and-coming artists, for the high performance ability of its dancers and for its presentation of masterworks by the world's best choreographers.

Through its production, presentation and educational activities, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal reaches a wide public, at home and abroad. It seeks to inspire new discoveries, stimulate the imagination and convey a deep passion for dance.

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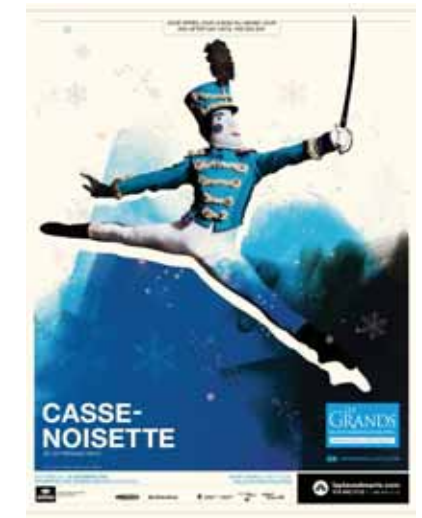
2008-2009 SEASON



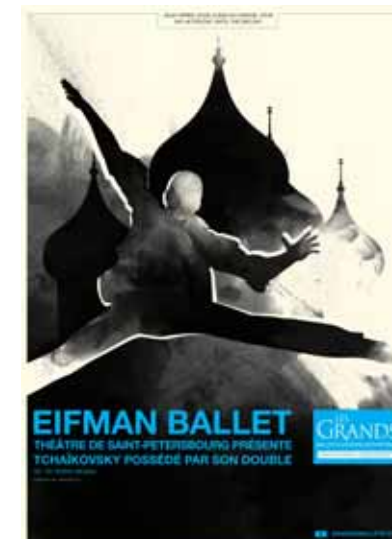
Choreographic Competition
September 25-27, 2008
Agora de la danse



The Queen of Spades by Kim Brandstrup
October 16-November 1, 2008
Théâtre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts



The Nutcracker by Fernand Nault
December 13-30, 2008
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts



Tchaikovsky's Mystery by the Eifman Ballet Theatre of St. Petersburg
February 19-21, 2009
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts



The Rite of Spring by Stijn Celis
Re-, II by Shen Wei
March 26-April 4, 2009
Théâtre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts



Sleeping Beauty by Mats Ek
May 7-16, 2009
Théâtre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts

MESSAGE FROM MANAGEMENT

THE 2008–2009 SEASON: DYNAMIC, CREATIVE, ACCLAIMED

The 2008–2009 season has been one of the most dynamic that Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal (GBCM) has seen since the appointment of Gradimir Pankov as the company's Artistic Director, ten years ago.

The season began with a series of performances in Paris. As part of the fourth Les Étés de la danse de Paris festival and the celebrations surrounding the 400th anniversary of the founding of Québec City, Les Grands Ballets kicked off a series of 16 representations and six public classes in the French capital on July 21, 2008, all of which were resounding successes. Under the majestic dome of the Grand Palais, our 35 performers danced with their characteristic verve, in the midst of a heat wave, until the final evening, on August 9. The three programs, bringing together six productions (*Minus One*, *TooT*, *Noces*, *Six Dances*, *Four Seasons* and *Cantata*) were presented to more than 35,000 spectators in an electrifying atmosphere, with the immensity and beauty of the venue amplifying the quality of the dancers' performances. On this occa-



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sion, we succeeded in captivating both audiences and critics in Paris, along with some 50 European and Middle Eastern producers who had travelled to Paris especially to see the shows. The company enjoyed exceptional visibility in the Paris subway as well as in several European and Québec media.

This series of performances was a true technical and physical challenge for the entire team and in retrospect is seen as one of the most important episodes in Les Grands Ballets' history. It is a source of pride that we will recall with joy for years to come. In this regard, we would like to extend warmest thanks to His Excellency Mr. Marc Lortie, the Canadian Ambassador to France, for his steadfast support.

The season concluded with another grand adventure: the company's history-making tour of the Middle East and performances in two European cities.

That first visit to the Middle East—which required more than 40 days of preparation on site—and subsequent stops in

Europe, began in June 2009 and featured three different programs, including the works *Noces*, *The Rite of Spring*, *Four Seasons* and *Cantata*. It was a huge success, with the company receiving invitations to give return performances in each of the countries where it performed. The tour included shows in Israel (in Tel Aviv, as part of the city's centennial celebrations and the 60th anniversary of bilateral relations between Canada and the State of Israel, as well as in Jerusalem), followed by Cairo, Egypt; Ljubljana, Slovenia; and Baden-Baden, Germany. It was certainly an eventful odyssey, with 11 performances given in less than three weeks to more than 14,300 spectators in four countries with, to say the least, differing cultures. To make this tour happen, the company had to mobilise its full energy to cover the approximately \$675,000 in direct costs occasioned by these overseas performances, in the wake of the Canadian government's abolition of the PROMART and Trade Routes financial-assistance programs for international tours.



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1 – *The Queen of Spades*
DANCERS Gabrielle Lamb and Hervé Courtain
PHOTO John Hall

2 – *Tchaikovsky's Mystery*
Eifman Ballet
PHOTO A. Sazonov

3 – *Sleeping Beauty*
DANCER Robin Mathes
PHOTO John Hall

The Middle Eastern tour would not have been possible were it not for the noteworthy support of Christine Saint-Pierre, Québec Minister for Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, the Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec, and His Excellency Ferry de Kerckhove, Canada's Ambassador to Egypt, who was especially supportive of our fundraising initiatives in Egypt. We offer them our sincerest gratitude and acknowledgement.

In between those two tours, the company also gave performances in Texas and Arkansas between November 6 and 16, 2008. We presented *TooT* and *Noces* in Houston, where we were appearing for the second time under our exchange agreement with Houston Ballet, which had offered Montrealers its production of *Madame Butterfly* during the 2007–2008 season. *Minus One*, meanwhile, was performed in the cities of Conway, Fayetteville and Dallas.

We are quite naturally proud to underscore the fact that Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal ranks among the dance companies most in demand by international producers. Without a doubt, the years to come will bring even greater international acclaim, including, over the short term, in the United States, Germany, Italy, China, as well as in Egypt and Israel, where we plan return visits.



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Les Grands Ballets Canadiens' 52nd Montréal season

As the season got underway, we witnessed the débuts of four young Canadian choreographers during the first edition of a nationwide choreographic competition created by Artistic Director Gradimir Pankov. Young Canadian choreographers or permanent residents aged 30 and under whose training, approach and artistic sensibility draw from classical ballet techniques were invited to enter. Some 20 applications were received—seven from Montréal, four from Vancouver, another four from Toronto and one each from Richmond, British Columbia, and Scarborough and London, Ontario. Four of these young choreographers were selected and given five weeks to create a new work. On September 25, 26 and 27, 2008, these new stars of Canadian dance premiered their works for 540 spectators at the Agora de la danse. The competition proved to be an outstanding professional experience for these emerging choreographers as well as their mentors.

The season's opening performance at Place des Arts in October was *The Queen of Spades*, a creation of Danish choreographer Kim Brandstrup, which the company had presented once before, in 2001. This full-length work for some 30 dancers, set to Gabriel Thibodeau's orchestration of Tchaikovsky's original score, combines classical pointe work with a virtual set.



For this return engagement, Brandstrup made significant changes to his choreography and stage direction. Featuring a brand-new cast, *The Queen of Spades* won the hearts of 8,547 spectators at a total of seven performances.

December saw the 45th annual production of *The Nutcracker*. Each year, the company makes efforts to find varied means of enhancing the visibility of this production. These days, a wide array of entertainment is presented during the Holiday period, resulting in strong competition. Once again, however, we enjoyed great success with the production, attracting 42,630 spectators to 17 performances between December 13 and 30.

After drawing critical raves during their first visit to Montréal, the Eifman Ballet Theatre of St. Petersburg, a troupe of some 40 dancers, returned in response to our invitation. The choice of companies invited by Les Grands is founded primarily on the type of ballet performed (full-length, classical or neo-classical), its artistic quality and its accessibility by a broad audience, including cultural communities. We decided to invite the Eifman Ballet Theatre back, following its acclaimed 2005 performance of *Red*

Giselle in Montréal. This time, the troupe offered *Tchaikovsky's Mystery*, choreographed by its Artistic Director, Boris Eifman. The work plunged audiences into the depths of the composer's tormented life. The ballet was seen by 7,452 enthusiastic spectators who attended three performances in February 2009.

Young Belgian choreographer Stijn Celis began the creation of *The Rite of Spring* on January 26, at the same time as Shen Wei was preparing the stage direction of his work *Re-, II*. Celis provided a wonderful surprise by creating a visceral piece about individuality, madness and rites of passage in contemporary society, based on the score by Stravinsky—a composer of whom he is especially enamoured—which is enthralling all by itself, with its heft and fiery energy. Twenty-four dancers made up the cast of this work, which, in its execution, shows similarities to the same choreographer's *Noces*. Audiences appeared won over by the piece's intensity. This was Celis' third creation for Les Grands, following *Noces* and *Cinderella*.

Re-, II, by China-born, New York City-based Shen Wei is a stunning work for 16 dancers by a choreographer whose singular aesthetic approach, imbued with his cultural heritage, has affinities with the visual arts. The première performance in 2007 of *Re-, II* was a veritable happening, and the return engagement two years later was no less remarkable, transporting the 6,418 spectators who took in the performances from March 26 to April 4, 2009. *Re-, II* was preceded on the bill by *The Rite of Spring*.

The final production of the season, *Sleeping Beauty* by Sweden's Mats Ek, was unquestionably one of the high points of the year. Two works by Ek have been part of Les Grands' repertoire for a number of years: *Solo for Two* and *Apartment*. This time, the company acquired one of his full-length ballets, *Sleeping Beauty*. We were proud to present this major work by a choreographer who for several years has been helping to renew the art of ballet with his incisive style. We had previously hosted Ballet Cullberg's production of this piece in 2001. A total audience of 7,139 people enjoyed the six sold-out performances of *Sleeping Beauty* in May 2009.



1 – *The Rite of Spring*
PHOTO John Hall
2 – *The Rite of Spring*
PHOTO Robert Etcheverry
3 – *Re-, II*
DANCER Gabrielle Lamb
PHOTO John Hall

In addition to giving performances in Montréal and abroad, the company was extremely active in the area of its community commitment. Our annual gala attracted 520 guests and amassed a record sum, in spite of the recessionary climate. We are particularly grateful to François and Isabelle de Gaspé Beaubien, the gala's Co-Chairs. The Nutcracker Fund for Children, founded 11 years ago, provided the opportunity for even larger numbers of children (1,800 this year, which was 350 more than in 2007) from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to attend workshops in dance, literature and visual arts, and to enjoy a performance of *The Nutcracker*. More than 1,580 students came to our Educational Matinées. We also initiated special projects with the Russian, Chinese and Inuit communities, generating keen interest among them.

On the administrative side, although the operating budget posted a slight loss for the 2008–2009 season (\$14,000), we closed out the fiscal year with a surplus of \$48,000, to which the Nutcracker Fund and Creation Fund contributed. This positive result was due to tight control of expenditures, both in terms of creations and performances, in Montréal as well as on tour. The 2008–2009 season was marked by, among other things, a 4.4% increase in revenues from the private sector compared to the 2007–2008 season,

in spite of lower contributions from foundations. There was a notable increase in donations from individuals. The private sector currently accounts for nearly 20% of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens' budget. Own-source revenues, meanwhile, now make up 65% of the budget, which is 4 percentage points higher than in 2007–2008.

For Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, 2008–2009 has been a season of major achievements—artistically, financially and in terms of the company's commitment to the community. Despite the adverse effects of the recession and the federal government's withdrawal of funding for international tours, we have demonstrated even greater leadership in the accomplishment of our mission.

We are especially grateful to the dancers and the other contributors who make up the wonderful Les Grands Ballets team, as well as to all our private and public partners, the members of the Board of Directors and the various committees, our donors and sponsors, our friends and our volunteers, not to mention our staff, for their efforts in ensuring the company's success during the season.

A big thank-you to one and all.

LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL



SEASON 2008-09 REPRESENTATIONS CALENDAR

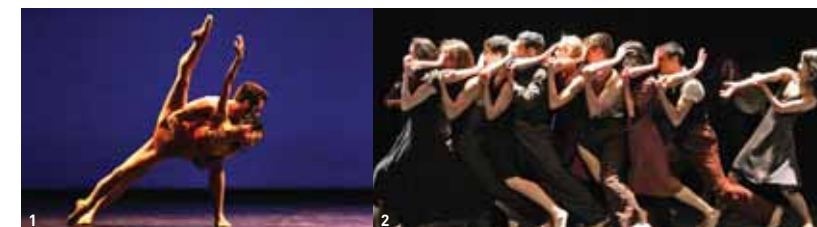
DATES	CITY, COUNTRY	ATTENDANCE	THEATRE	PROGRAM	CHORÉOGRAPHER	MUSIC
July 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 July 29, 30, 31 August 1, 2 August 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Paris, FRANCE	35,000	Les Galeries nationales du Grand Palais	<i>Minus One</i> <i>TooT</i> <i>Noces</i> <i>Six Dances</i> <i>Four Seasons</i> <i>Cantata</i>	Ohad Naharin Didy Veldman Stijn Celis Jiří Kylián Mauro Bigonzetti	Mixed Music D. Shostakovich, Balanescu Quartet I. Stravinsky W. A. Mozart A. Vivaldi Trad. music arranged by Gruppo Musicale Assurd, Osvaldo Farrés
September 25, 26, 27	Montréal	540	Agora de la danse	<i>Ahh..!</i> <i>The Gaze</i> <i>Contrapasso</i> <i>Côtes flottantes</i>	Jean-Sébastien Couture Lacey Smith Shay Kuebler Tiffany Tregarthen	Mixed Music M. Stearns, Dead Can Dance Sigur Ros, Boards of Canada, Sonar Lodge Anouar Brahem
October 16, 17, 18, 23, 25, 30, 31 November 1	Montréal	8,547	Théâtre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts	<i>The Queen of Spades</i>	Kim Brandstrup	P. I. Tchaikovsky
November 7, 8	Houston, TX, USA	1,842	Cullen Theater	<i>TooT</i> <i>Noces</i>	Didy Veldman Stijn Celis	D. Shostakovich, Balanescu Quartet I. Stravinsky
November 11	Conway, AR, USA	939	Reynolds Performance Hall	<i>Minus One</i>	Ohad Naharin	Mixed Music
November 13	Fayetteville, AR, USA	843	Baum Walker Hall, Waton Arts Center	<i>Minus One</i>	Ohad Naharin	Mixed Music
November 14, 15	Dallas, TX, USA	1,769	McFarlin Memorial Auditorium	<i>Minus One</i>	Ohad Naharin	Mixed Music
December 13-30	Montréal	42,630	Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts	<i>The Nutcracker</i>	Fernand Nault	P. I. Tchaikovsky
February 19, 20, 21	Montréal	7,452	Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts	<i>Tchaikovsky's Mystery</i>	Boris Eifman *	P. I. Tchaikovsky
March 26, 27, 28 April 2, 3, 4	Montréal	6,418	Théâtre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts	<i>The Rite of Spring</i> <i>Re-Il</i>	Stijn Celis Shen Wei	I. Stravinsky John Tavener and Cambodian Traditional Music
May 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16	Montréal	7,139	Théâtre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts	<i>Sleeping Beauty</i>	Mats Ek	P. I. Tchaikovsky
June 1, 2	Tel Aviv, ISRAEL	2,400	Suzanne Dellal Centre for Dance and Theatre	<i>Noces</i> <i>Cantata</i>	Stijn Celis Mauro Bigonzetti	I. Stravinsky Trad. music arranged by Gruppo Musicale Assurd, Osvaldo Farrés
June 5	Jerusalem, ISRAEL	900	Jerusalem Centre for Performing Arts, Sherover Theatre	<i>Noces</i> <i>Cantata</i>	Stijn Celis Mauro Bigonzetti	I. Stravinsky Trad. music arranged by Gruppo Musicale Assurd, Osvaldo Farrés
June 9, 10, 11, 12	Cairo, EGYPT	2,400	Cairo Opera, Main Theatre	<i>Noces</i> <i>Cantata</i>	Stijn Celis Mauro Bigonzetti	I. Stravinsky Trad. music arranged by Gruppo Musicale Assurd, Osvaldo Farrés
June 16	Ljubljana, SLOVENIA	932	Cankarjev Dom, Gallus Hall	<i>Noces</i> <i>The Rite of Spring</i>	Stijn Celis	I. Stravinsky I. Stravinsky
June 19, 20, 21	Baden-Baden, GERMANY	7,500	Festspielhaus	<i>Four Seasons</i> <i>Cantata</i>	Mauro Bigonzetti	A. Vivaldi Trad. music arranged by Gruppo Musicale Assurd, Osvaldo Farrés

PERFORMANCES in Montréal: 44 (3 by Guest Company) and on tour: 33

CITIES VISITED: 10 (6 countries)

AUDIENCE in Montréal: 72,726 and on tour: 54,525

* Guest Company: Eifman Ballet Theatre of St. Petersburg, choreography by Boris Eifman



1 – *Four Seasons*
DANCERS Mariko Kida and Jérémy Galdeano
PHOTO Robert Etcheverry
2 – *Cantata*
PHOTO Robert Etcheverry

ARTISTIC TEAM

LES GRANDS BALLET CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Gradimir PANKOV

ARTISTIC TEAM



Pierre LAPOINTE



Margret KAUFMANN



Ekaterina SHCHELKANOVA



Michelle PROULX

PRINCIPAL DANCER



Rachel RUFER

FIRST SOLOISTS



Mariko KIDA



Callye A. ROBINSON

FIRST SOLOISTS



Jesús CORRALES



Hervé COURTAÏN



Jeremy RALA

SOLOISTS



Émilie DURVILLE



Gabrielle LAMB
(The Queen of Spades & Re-//)



Robin MATHES



Heidi ROOD



Edi BLLOSHMI



Jean-Sébastien COUTURE



Jérémy GALDEANO

DEMI-SOLOISTS



John HALL



Marcin KACZOROWSKI



Lénaïg GUÉGAN



Marie-Ève LAPOINTE



Vanesa G.R. MONTOYA



Navarra NOVY-WILLIAMS



Isabelle PAQUETTE



Marisa PAULONI



Alisia POBEGA



Robert DESKINS



Jean-Philippe DURY



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Guillaume PRUNEAU



Raul SALAMANCA

CORPS DE BALLET



Noëllie CONJEAUD



Sarah GIBSON*



Cécile KALTENBACH



Thaïs MARTINEZ FRAGA



Aline SCHÜRGER



Annie SHREFFLER



Dario Giuseppe DINUZZI



Shane OHMER

APPRENTICES



Sébastien RIOU



Karell WILLIAMS



Graziella LORRIAUX



Russell LEPLEY

* C.S.S.T.

CHOREOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

FIRST EDITION

In January 2008, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal launched an innovative cross-Canada choreographic competition. The winners of the inaugural edition were Shay Kuebler and Tiffany Tregarthen, both from Vancouver, Lacey Smith, from London, Ontario and Jean-Sébastien Couture, from Montréal. The four, all under 30 years of age and chosen for the originality and rigour of their approaches, had five weeks in which to create works, under the enlightened mentorship of Gradimir Pankov, Artistic Director of Les Grands Ballets, and Stéphan Pépin, the company's Production Director, and with the assistance of resident lighting designer Marc Parent. The four creations—each of which had to be choreographed for a maximum of four dancers and last less than 25 minutes—were presented at the Agora de la danse on September 25, 26 and 27, 2008. Following each performance, audience members were invited to vote for their favourite work.

CREATION OF THE DAVID SELA AWARD

In parallel with the choreographic competition, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal was proud to announce the creation of the **David Sela Public Award**. The award, instituted in recognition of **Mr. Sela's** dedication to the arts, was given to choreographer Jean-Sébastien Couture for his work *Ahh...!*, winner of the audience vote.

This inaugural edition of the choreographic competition was made possible in part thanks to the generosity of the following donors: the **Marjorie and Gerald Bronfman Foundation**, the **Imperial Tobacco Canada Foundation**, the **RBC Foundation** and **David Sela**.



LES CRÉATIONS DES LAURÉATS
DU PREMIER CONCOURS CHORÉGRAPHIQUE
DES GRANDS BALLET CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL

CREATIONS BY THE
WINNERS OF THE FIRST
LES GRANDS BALLET CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL
CHOREOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

SOUS LE MENTORAT DE / UNDER THE MENTORSHIP OF Gradimir Pankov

September 25, 26, 27 septembre 2008

CHOREOGRAPHERS Jean-Sébastien Couture, Lacey Smith, Tiffany Tregarthen, Shay Kuebler
PHOTO John Hall

A COMPANY THAT SHINES

LES ÉTÉS DE LA DANSE À PARIS

From July 21 to August 9, 2008, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal took part in the prestigious Les Étés de la danse de Paris festival. Created in 2005, the festival brings a single internationally renowned dance company to the City of Light each year. Following the San Francisco Ballet, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Cuban National Ballet, the 2008 edition featured Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal.

The Honorary Chair, His Excellency Marc Lortie, Canada's Ambassador to France, and Wilfrid-Guy Licari, Québec Delegate-General in Paris, brought together more than 200 guests for a gala to mark the Grands Ballets première and the festival's July 21 opening night, with Christine Saint-Pierre, Québec Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women.



2 - Exterior of the Grand Palais
PHOTO Patrick Colpron

3 - Les GBCM in the Paris subway
PHOTO GBCM

4 - Minus One
PHOTO Jesús Vallinas

For its visit to Paris, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal is proud to have been partners with GE Capital Solutions Europe Limited, Air Canada, Power Corporation of Canada, Tourisme Québec and Global Jump. With their support and that of its donors, the company was able to raise \$202,904.

Les Grands Ballets also benefited from the helpful collaboration of the Canadian Embassy and the Québec General Delegation in Paris.

Les Grands Ballets would also like to thank the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec and the Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec for their special contribution.



Guests of Honour at the Gala

Left to right:

Elise Charbonneau, Associate Director, Fundraising and Events, GBCM; Gradimir Pankov, the company's Artistic Director; Margret Kaufmann, Ballet Mistress and Assistant to the Artistic Director; Stéphan La Roche, Director, Music and Dance, Conseil des arts et lettres du Québec; Christine Saint-Pierre, Québec Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women; Constance V. Pathy, Chair of the Board of Directors, GBCM; Yves Lefebvre, Senior Consul, Foreign Affairs, Québec Delegation in Paris; and Alain Dancyger, Executive Director, GBCM.

PHOTO: Jesús Vallinas



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FIRST TOUR OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Les Grands Ballets' first tour of the Middle East kicked off June 1, 2009, with the presentation of *Noces* by Stijn Celis and *Cantata* by Mauro Bigonzetti, on the outdoor stage of the Suzanne Dellal Centre for Dance and Theatre in Tel Aviv. A private reception was held following the performance, in the presence of His Excellency Jon Allen, Canada's Ambassador to Israel, acknowledging the support of the tour's many financial partners.

The tour continued with performances at the Israel Festival - Jerusalem, then at Cairo Opera House in Egypt. On June 9 after the Cairo première, a reception was given to thank the companies and patrons who had supported the company's visit to Egypt. His Excellency Ferry de Kerckhove, Canada's Ambassador to Egypt, and Abdel Moneim Kamel, Chairman and Executive Director of Cairo Opera, attended.

The company went on to give performances at Cankarjev Dom in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on June 16, and at the Festspielhaus in Baden-Baden, Germany, from June 19 to 21, 2009.

Les Grands Ballets wishes to acknowledge its special partners—Air Canada, its official carrier, and Bombardier Aviation—for their generous support for the Middle East tour.



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For our performances in Israel

Les Grands Ballets would like to extend its sincere gratitude to Air Canada, the Azrieli Foundation and the Azrieli Group of Companies Israel, the Alex and Ruth Dworkin Foundation, the Federation CJA, and the Jewish Community Foundation of Montréal. We would also like to express our thanks to His Excellency Jon Allen, Canada's Ambassador to Israel, for his support for the June 1 gala, and to Michèle Ségué, Israeli Consul in Canada, as well as to all the individual donors.

For our performances in Egypt

We also acknowledge His Excellency Ferry de Kerckhove, Canada's Ambassador to Egypt, for his steadfast support, and the following member companies of the Ambassadors' Circle for their support of the Egypt performances. Thanks to them we were able to raise \$223,934 in support of the tour:

ARTOC Group for Investment and Development / Mohammed Shafik Gabr
Bombardier Aviation
Canspect / Taha Qirbi
Fednav Limited
Kato Investment / Ibrahim Kamel
Orascom Telecom / Naguib Sawiris
Suez Cement / Omar A. Mohanna
TransGlobe / Albert and Noura Gress.

Les Grands Ballets' Middle East tour was additionally made possible thanks to the exceptional contribution of the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and the Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec.

Donors for the Middle East tour

For the tour, the company also launched an individual donation campaign with the help of a Fundraising Committee. A very special thanks to Committee Chair Ariane Champoux-Cadoche, Partner Director, Translation at Gowling Lafleur Henderson, and to the committee members for their commitment: Hélène Barette, Lawyer, Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP; Ernst Blaser, Financial Security Advisor, and his wife Nicole Blaser; Élise Côté, Special Projects, Interinvest Corporation; Michèle Duguay, patron of Les Grands Ballets; and Brigitte Martin, Merchandise Manager, Reitmans Canada.



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1 - Exterior view of the Suzanne Dellal Centre for Dance and Theatre, Tel Aviv
PHOTO GBCM

2 - Les Grands Ballets in Egypt
PHOTO John Hall

THE NUTCRACKER FUND FOR CHILDREN 2008

Founded 11 years ago, the Nutcracker Fund for Children has become one of the premier cultural and educational programs for disadvantaged children in Québec. Since its founding, the program has given more than 13,000 youngsters the opportunity to experience the magic of the Holiday season by attending a performance of *The Nutcracker* ballet and to attend literature, visual arts and choreography workshops given by professional artists. The children are selected through the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec, which chooses Montréal schools to take part in the program by random draw. In 2008, 1,800 children from 66 schools benefited from the program, including 200 children from some 20 children's organisations.

To finance these activities, the Nutcracker Fund relies on purchases by companies and individuals of tickets to its annual benefit brunch; this edition, a total of \$276,406 was raised.

The 2008 Nutcracker Fund Committee was made up of Gradimir Pankov, Artistic Director, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal; Ross Cammalleri, Marketing Director, Bombardier Business Aircraft; Susan Kudzman, Executive Vice-President, Risk Management and Depositors' Accounts, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec; Christine Lennon-Régimbal; Bernard Letendre, Regional Vice-president, Wealth Management, Eastern Canada, Manulife Financial; Yves Roy, President and CEO, SECOR; and Erik Ryan, Vice-President, Communications and External Relations, Rio Tinto Alcan Primary Metal. Les Grands Ballets would like to extend its sincere thanks to the entire committee.



FINANCIAL PARTNERS

THE NUTCRACKER CIRCLE—\$25,000

Fondation J.A. DeSève
Hydro-Québec
National Bank

KING OF CANDYLAND CIRCLE—\$10,000

Fondation J. Armand Bombardier
The Gazette

Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life

Groupe Cossette Communication
Laurentian Bank Securities

MOUSE CIRCLE—\$5,000

Alcoa Canada
Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec
Foundation Intact
Group Induspac
Mildred Lande
Pratt & Whitney Canada
Standard Life Canada

We also wish to thank the event sponsors, individual ticket buyers, donors and contributors:

Simon Ampleman, presenter of the choreographic workshops;
Aline Apostolska, dance columnist and presenter of the literature workshops;
Eugenia Reznik, painter and presenter of the visual arts workshops;
Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec;
and Les Grands Ballets dancers who took part in the choreographic workshops: Émilie Durville, Marisa Pauloni, Alisa Pobega, Rachel Rufer and Jean-Sébastien Couture.



"I am moved by this program, which gives underprivileged children an opportunity to look at the arts differently, and to see dance as something accessible to everyone. The Nutcracker Fund helps to break down barriers to a discipline that is perceived to be elitist."

John Hall, soloist, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal

1 – The Nutcracker workshop – Alphonse Pesant School

The Nutcracker visual arts workshops

PHOTOS Guy L'Heureux
2 – Charles-Lemoyne's class
3 – Chanoine-Joseph Théorêt's class
4 – Saint-Antoine-Marie-Claretu's class
5 – Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau's class

6 – The Nutcracker Fund Stilt Walker

PHOTO Jean-Francois Hétu

7 – The Nutcracker

DANCER Camille Pilon Marquez
PHOTO John Hall

LES GRANDS BALLETS GALA 2009

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal's annual benefit gala, presented this year under the theme "Backstage with Les Grands Ballets", brought together more than 450 figures from the business community on April 25, 2009. With François de Gaspé Beaubien, Chair and Chief Coaching Officer of Zoom Media, and his wife, Isabelle, a member of the Board of Directors of Les Grands Ballets, as Honorary Co-Chairs, the event raised a total of \$534,035.

In a hangar at the Starlink Aviation private airport in Dorval, guests attended a cocktail party followed by a gourmet dinner and dancing. The space was transformed for the occasion with props and sets from Les Grands Ballets performances. Excerpts from Ohad Naharin's *Minus One* were performed during the evening, which was emceed by Winston McQuade. Guests took part in several random draws, one of which was a trip to a European destination, donated by partner Air Canada.

It was a highly memorable evening, thanks to the efforts, generosity and commitment of our Co-Chairs, François and Isabelle de Gaspé Beaubien.



Reception at Starlink Aviation
PHOTO Stéphane Milhomme



Left to right:
Gradimir Pankov, Artistic Director, GBCM, Margret Kaufmann, Ballet Mistress and Assistant to the Artistic Director; Laurence G. Pathy, President and CEO, Fednav Limited; Constance V. Pathy, Chair of the Board of Directors of GBCM; the 2009 Gala Co-Chairs François de Gaspé Beaubien, Chair and chief Coaching Officer, Zoom Media, and Isabelle de Gaspé Beaubien, member of the Board of Directors of GBCM; and Alain Dancyger, Executive Director, GBCM.

PHOTO Stéphane Milhomme



Cocktail area, dancers at the barre
PHOTO Stéphane Milhomme

OUR THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART AND HELPED ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THIS EVENING, AND TO OUR DONORS, WITHOUT WHOM THE COMPANY COULD NOT PURSUE ITS MISSION.

Gala Honorary Co-Chairs

Isabelle and François de Gaspé Beaubien, Respectively member of the Board of Directors of Les Grands Ballets and Chair and Chief Coaching Officer, Zoom Media

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PORTFOLIO OF PHOTOGRAPHS

In 2008, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal asked five renowned contemporary artists – **Raymonde April**, **Evergon**, **Pascal Grandmaison**, **John Hall** and **Jesús Vallinas** – to create a limited-edition boxed set of original photographs that had the company as a theme.

The collector's portfolio, created exclusively for benefit the company, was launched at the Foyer Jean-Gascon in Théâtre Maisonneuve at Place des Arts on March 26, in the presence of the artists and of Martha Tapiero Lawee, the project's Honorary Chair. Titled *Regards de pointe*, the set includes a text by art historian François-Marc Gagnon. With a run of only 60 numbered copies, the set features 10 digitally printed photographs, each created in its own distinct style and signed by the artist.

Sales of the portfolio have raised a total of \$46,955 in support the creation of new works. Les Grands Ballets would like to express its profound thanks to the artists and others who took part in developing this unique boxed set.

Raymonde April



Evergon



John Hall



Pascal Grandmaison



Jesús Vallinas



2008–2009 SEASON PARTNERS

Engagement, passion and steadfast support are the hallmarks of the many partners, sponsors, associated organisations, corporate and individual donors who, year-in and year-out, loyally support our mission: *Be Moved. Differently.* Their support ensures that we can dedicate ourselves to the creation and presentation of original performances, offer our audience a repertoire that blends eclecticism and innovation and shine on the local, national and international stages. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to them.

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Cantata
 PHOTO Robert Etcheverry

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PHOTO Robert Etcheverry

*Donations received during the period July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009

** Only corporate and foundation donations over \$1,000 are listed.



Noces
PHOTO Sergueï Endinian

AUDITORS' REPORT ON SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AUDITORS' REPORT ON SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the members of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal

The accompanying summarised balance sheet and statement of revenues and expenditures are derived from the complete financial statements of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal as at June 30, 2009 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated August 28, 2009. The fair summarisation of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarised financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarise, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarised financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the entity's financial position, results of operations and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

Chartered Accountants

Montréal, Canada
August 28, 2009

MANAGEMENT'S REPORT

The financial statements are the responsibility of, and have been prepared by, the management and approved by the Board of Directors. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles in Canada and include certain amounts which are based on best estimates and judgments.

The integrity of the financial statements is supported by a system of internal accounting control and examinations performed by the external auditors whose responsibility is to ensure reliability and objectivity of the financial statements.

The external auditors have free and independent access to the Audit Committee which is comprised of members of the Board of Directors. This committee meets annually with members of the management and auditors to review the financial statements and recommends their approval to the Board of Directors.

The financial statements have been examined by the external auditors, Ernst & Young LLP.

Alain Dancyger, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BALANCE SHEET (as at June 30, 2009)

GENERAL FUND	2009 (\$000)	2008 (\$000)
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$28	\$603
Accounts receivable	\$1,151	\$692
Inventory	\$75	\$68
Prepaid expenses	\$257	\$425
Assets	\$84	\$117
Total	\$1,596	\$1,905
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$544	\$544
Deferred revenue	\$988	\$1,082
Due to "The Endowment Fund of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens"	\$0	\$200
Total	\$1,531	\$1,827
FUNDS BALANCE		
Invested in assets	\$84	\$117
Unrestricted funds	\$-19	\$-38
Total	\$64	\$79
CREATIONS AND NEW PRODUCTIONS FUND		
	2009 (\$000)	2008 (\$000)
Fund balance – beginning of the year	\$165	\$437
Interest income	\$6	\$3
Interfund transfer		\$-275
Fund balance – end of the year	\$171	\$165
NUTCRACKER FUND		
	2009 (\$000)	2008 (\$000)
Fund balance – beginning of the year	\$117	\$115
Surplus of Revenues over Expenses	\$56	\$2
Fund balance – end of the year	\$174	\$117

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

GENERAL FUND	30/06/09 12 months (\$000)	30/06/08 3 months (\$000)
REVENUES		
Montreal box office receipts	\$3,081	\$500
Touring	\$882	\$50
Fundraising	\$1,482	\$349
Presentation Activities	\$423	\$368
Exchange of Services and Other	\$697	\$96
Subtotal	\$6,565	\$1,363
GRANTS		
General operations	\$2,980	\$745
Touring and projects	\$646	\$70
Special grants	\$140	\$0
Subtotal	\$3,766	\$815
Total	\$10,332	\$2,178
EXPENSES		
Salaries	\$3,898	\$844
Box office and touring	\$3,411	\$541
Overhead	\$1,518	\$502
Creations and new productions	\$1,055	\$275
Presentation activities	\$335	\$321
Production overhead	\$128	\$17
Total	\$10,346	\$2,500
Surplus (Deficit) of Revenues over Expenses	\$-14	\$-322
Fund Transfer	\$0	\$275
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit) – Beginning of the year	\$79	\$126
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (DEFICIT) – END OF YEAR	\$64	\$79

NOTES:

In order to invest in creations and new productions, the Company has a separate fund in which specific donations as well as contributions from the general fund, are accumulated according to established procedures.

In order to fund activities with underprivileged children, in its activities for Nutcracker, the Company has a fund in which specific donations as well as contributions from the general fund are accumulated according to established procedures.

The Endowment Fund of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens contributed interest of \$268,996 to the General Fund in 2009 (\$48,677 in 2008).

LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL

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Gradimir Pankov

Executive Director
Alain Dancyger

Founder
Ludmilla Chiriaeff

Choreographer Emeritus
Fernand Nault

Emeritus Lighting Designer
Nicholas Cernovitch

Conductor-in-Residence
Allan Lewis

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Ballet Mistress and Assistant to the Artistic Director
Margret Kaufmann

Ballet Mistress
Ekaterina Shchelkanova

Artistic Coordinator
Michelle Proulx

Pianist
Nora Mativetskaya

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Technical Director
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Stage Manager
Myriam Provost Riel

Lighting Re-creation and Coordination
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Virginie Ducanos

Fundraising and Events Coordinator
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Martin Lamontagne, F.R.C.P.C., BSc

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LES AMIS DES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL

Les Amis des Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal is a committee made up of volunteers who share a passion for dance. Their active participation in the company's events may take various forms but the goal is always the same: to contribute, year after year, to the dancers' well-being.

Many thanks to all!



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* These employees left the company during the 2008-2009 fiscal year.



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