

NEWS

For immediate release

SPECTACULAR FORAY INTO BELLE ÉPOQUE PARIS!

At the invitation of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet performs its mega-production *Moulin Rouge*

Montréal, March 16, 2010 – Les Grands Ballets Canadiens welcomes the Royal Winnipeg Ballet to Montréal with Jorden Morris's *Moulin Rouge*. Passionate red dominates this colourful extravaganza, created by Morris to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Canada's oldest classical dance company. Come move to the infectious rhythm of the can-can at **Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier** of Place des Arts on **April 14, 15 and 16, 2011**.

Moulin Rouge – The Ballet *

This mega-production involving 26 company dancers was created by Jorden Morris, the choreographer behind *Peter Pan*, the biggest success in the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's history. His new work brilliantly recreates the sparkle of Paris during the Belle Époque. The most celebrated cabaret of all time and the birthplace of the can-can and the quadrille, the *Moulin Rouge* has been the subject of numerous books, paintings, movies and musicals.

It's Paris at the turn of the 20th century. In a city where passion and excess reign, the painter Mathieu finds tender romance with a young laundress, Nathalie. The two burn with love and ambition. Nathalie is offered a job at the *Moulin Rouge*, whose owner, the diabolical Zidler, looks maliciously at her romance with Mathieu. Intent on making names for themselves at the famous cabaret, the couple encounters Montmartre's denizens in all their splendid array and rubs shoulders with famous people like Toulouse-Lautrec, the can-can queen La Goulue and Môme Fromage. All of Paris is captivated by the seductive dancers appearing nightly at this crossroads of loose living, the *Moulin Rouge*. But Nathalie's love for Mathieu is soon threatened by Zidler's obsessive jealousy.

After its première in Winnipeg on October 17, 2009, *Moulin Rouge* had great success on tour in several of Canada's major cities. "A triumph ... Morris's choreography, the well-chosen musical selections, the fabulous costumes and talented dancers – all reach their height when the can-can begins. The can-can danced in toe-shoes – now that's worth looking into!" – *Daily Courier*, Kelowna, B.C.

Jorden Morris

Jorden Morris is Associate Director of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. He took up choreography after retiring as a principal dancer with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. He presented his first work, an adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' *The Three Musketeers*, in 1999 at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. Subsequently, he created numerous works for the company and its school, notably *Deverell*, a work inspired by Celtic traditions, which had its premiere in 2005. In 2006, he had a big box-office hit with *Peter Pan*, a work that toured across Canada. While continuing his work as a choreographer, Morris took over the direction of a popular children's television show, *The Toy Castle*, in 2003, which led him to direct and choreograph a live interactive dance show. The show played to sold-out houses. He repeated the event in 2005 with Atlanta Ballet. Morris's work on the TV show earned him a Genie Award nomination in 2003.



Photo : Nardella Photography Inc.



The Royal Winnipeg Ballet

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet has earned critical and popular acclaim for its versatility, captivating style and high technical standards. Gweneth Lloyd and Betty Farrally founded the company in 1939, making the Royal Winnipeg Ballet the oldest continuously active company in Canada. Arnold Spohr took over the artistic direction in 1958. Under his leadership, the company grew and developed to the point where it took its place among the world's most eminent dance companies. A school for developing professional dancers for the company opened in 1970 under the direction of David Moroni. Each year, the ever-popular ballet company performs more than 150 shows. In 1996, the artistic direction passed to André Lewis, a dancer associated with the company for two decades.

Moulin Rouge – The Ballet * by Jorden Morris
performed by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet
on April 14, 15 at 8 p.m. and April 16, 2011 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier of Place des Arts

Pre-show talks

Pre-show talks take place from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier
prior to each performance.

Learn about subscriptions

For information on subscription rates and group packages as well as their benefits, call **514 849-0269**, consult the season brochure or visit **grandsballets.com** where you will also find information on programs, the company and its dancers. You can also subscribe on line. Individual tickets are available at Place des Arts as of September 2010. Box office: **514 842-2112 / www.laplacedesarts.com**.

*In the spirit of the Moulin Rouge of Paris, Moulin Rouge® is a registered trademark of Moulin Rouge S.A.

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