

## NEWS

For immediate release

# JOURNEYS TO INNER SPACE – THE GERMAN STYLE

## Two works by German choreographers Marco Goecke and Stephan Thoss presented for the first time by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal



Photo: Martin Kaufhold, Wiesbaden Ballet

**Montréal, March 16, 2010** – Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal offers a splendid double bill that brings together two stars of today's German dance scene. The impetuous Marco Goecke, one of Stuttgart Ballet's two resident choreographers, is preparing a new work for Les Grands Ballets, and the mysterious Stephan Thoss, artistic director of Wiesbaden Ballet, will present the North American premiere of *Searching for Home* (*Heim Suchen*). Discover this program on **May 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21, 2011**, at **Théâtre Maisonneuve** of Place des Arts.

### A new work by Marco Goecke

Marco Goecke's well-received appearances at the Stuttgart Noverre Society during the first years of the last decade earned him an invitation to create a work for the New York City Ballet. Goecke grabs people's attention with remarkably inventive choreography. Born in 1972 in Wuppertal, the birthplace of the great Pina Bausch, he was trained in ballet. He danced with the Deutsche Staatsoper in Berlin and with Hagen Ballet Theatre, where he soon choreographed his first work. Since 2005 he has served with Christian Spuck as resident choreographer of the Stuttgart Ballet, a creative workshop for the likes of Kylián, Forsythe and Neumeier. Goecke is also resident choreographer of the Scapino Ballet in Rotterdam. Showered with awards (the Dom Pérignon Award, the 2006 Nijinsky Prize for Emerging Choreographers, etc.), he has created works for Hamburg Ballet, les Ballets de Monte Carlo, Nederlands Dans Theater and Leipzig Ballet in recent years.

This *rara avis* excites audiences with novel, off-beat choreography in gloomy, enigmatic ballets performed at amazing speed in which "he reveals a path to the soul's innermost depths" (*Stuttgarter Nachrichten*). He never stops reinventing movements, mixing shadow-boxing, mime and sudden rapid changes of rhythm. His work demands great dexterity on the part of the dancers. "The young man from Wuppertal has a completely original style that belongs to him alone." (*Cannstatter Zeitung*, Stuttgart)

Among his successful creations for Stuttgart Ballet were *Sweet, Sweet, Sweet* (2005), *Viciouswishes* (2006), *The Nutcracker* (his first story ballet, nominated for the 2007 Der Faust theatre award), *Alben* (2008) and the solo, *Fancy Goods* (2009). He is working on his second story ballet, *Orlando*, whose premiere is expected to be held in June 2010. Next year in Montréal he will create a 30-minute work in Montréal. A real surprise!



## **Searching for Home**

Everyone thinks they know what they mean when they talk of “me.” But even philosophers and neurologists have their doubts about this concept, however obvious it seems. The idea of a sole, unique, true “me” is too simple. This is what the young woman in *Searching for Home* finds. Her various notions of “me” appear as inner spirits that emerge from behind doors and walls as a reflection of her unknown inner being. The spirits are compelling and stir confusion in her daily routine and in the real world. Before she can find inner peace, she must first pacify this palpable threat and acknowledge what is unknown, “the undisclosed.”

This inner journey into the many forms of “me” is performed by 16 dancers. The choreographer was literally swept up by the music of Philip Glass and the images that the music generated. *Searching for Home* has earned enthusiastic critical notices since its creation in Germany in 2008. “An intelligent, mysterious, evocative work, full of intrigue.” *Bild*. “Thoss’s work seems to take hold of the body, constructing and deconstructing it. Thoss is intense... and eager to show his understanding of a world that he wants to seize.” *Frankfurter Rundschau*. “Thoss knows how to use the body to express emotions and states of mind that are transformed into great and sometimes extreme examples of dance virtuosity in his hands.” “What is remarkable about his works is their limitless character, leaving interpretations open. The works give viewers the time to think for themselves.” *Main-Echo*, Aschaffenburg.

## **Stephan Thoss**

Stephan Thoss’s fascinating aesthetic outlook is a resolutely contemporary blend of classical ballet and German expressionist dance. After dancing as a soloist with the Berlin Comic Opera at the Kassel Theatre, he began choreographing for the Dresden Opera. Soon after, he was invited to create works for prestigious companies such as Stuttgart Ballet, Bavarian National Ballet, Hamburg Ballet, Tuscany Ballet, Aalto Ballet Theater of Essen and Nederlands Dans Theater II. In 1998, he became director of the Kiel Ballet. Then, in 2001, he became director of the Hanover Opera Ballet, where, in addition to revisiting classic ballets such as *Swan Lake* and *The Rite of Spring*, he created numerous original works.

Thoss has been director of the Wiesbaden Ballet since 2006. An extremely prolific choreographer, Thoss has created more than 70 solos, duets and group works. The Wiesbaden Ballet is noted for its varied repertory that includes abstract ballets and surrealist works like *Intervals* and *Searching for Home* that use music by Russian composers (Shostakovich, Rachmaninov and Stravinsky), comic ballets and reinterpretations of the great classics.

**A new work by Marco Goecke / *Searching for Home* by Stephan Thoss**  
performed by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal  
on May 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21, 2011, at 8 p.m.  
Théâtre Maisonneuve of Place des Arts

### **Pre-show talks**

Pre-show talks take place from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Théâtre Maisonneuve  
prior to each performance.

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