

**NEWS**

For immediate release

## LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL AT NEW YORK'S FALL FOR DANCE FESTIVAL IN SEPTEMBER



Photo: Sergueï Endimian

**Montréal, August 3, 2009** – After performing at Jacob’s Pillow Festival in Massachusetts in July, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal is returning to the United States this autumn at the invitation of the **Fall for Dance** festival to present **Noces** by **Stijn Celis** at New York City Center on **September 24 and 25**.

Founded in 2004, **Fall for Dance**, an event very popular with the general public, showcases excerpts from shows performed by 25 to 30 international companies each night for 10 nights. For the modest sum of \$10 per performance, audiences are treated to a rich snapshot of the variety of today’s dance, from hip-hop to ballet, tango to tap dancing. This is the second time Les Grands Ballets has been invited to **Fall for Dance**; the company performed excerpts of Ohad Naharin’s *Minus One* in 2005.

This year, **Fall for Dance** celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ballets Russes, a company created by impresario Serge de Diaghilev. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, he conceived a new form of show, fusing all art forms and bringing together the best choreographers, painters and composers of the time, among them Vaslav Nijinsky, Michel Fokine, Leonid Massine, Bronislava Nijinska, Pablo Picasso, Leon Bakst, Igor Stravinsky, Maurice Ravel and Claude Debussy. For this tribute, **Fall for Dance** has brought together eight creations and classic or contemporary interpretations of major works from Les Ballets Russes, including *The Afternoon of a Faun* with Boston Ballet, *La Chatte* with Teatro dell’Opera di Roma Ballet and *Noces* with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal.





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**Noces**, which will be performed in its full 27-minute length, was created for Les Grands Ballets by Belgian choreographer **Stijn Celis** in 2002. In it, 24 dancers strut and clash brutally at a delirious Balkan peasant wedding, expressionistic and intense, to the haunting music of Stravinsky. Celis takes a critical look at the institution of marriage with the piece. A highly popular one on the company's tours, from New York City to Cairo, it has earned rave reviews from audiences and critics alike.

**Celis** is a regular contributor to Les Grands Ballets, having also created *Cinderella (The Lost Shoe)* in 2003 (reworked in 2007) and *The Rite of Spring*, also set to music by Stravinsky.

After **Fall for Dance**, the company will be back in Montréal to rehearse **Romeo and Juliet** by Jean-Christophe Maillot, with performances at **Théâtre Maisonneuve** beginning **October 15**.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal would like to thank **Air Canada**, its official airline, for its special contribution.

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