

## NEWS

For immediate release

# LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL WOWS AUDIENCES ACROSS THE WORLD



Photos: Serguei Endinian, Robert Etcheverry

**Montréal, September 15, 2009** — From the United States to Europe to the Middle East, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal is building a solid international reputation. No sooner was the company back from a tour in Israel, Egypt, Slovenia and Germany, than it immediately departed for the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Massachusetts. It's gearing up for the Fall for Dance Festival in New York City at the end of September, and will be heading off to Québec City in December, followed by Germany and Italy in April and June 2010. Other international tours are currently under negotiation, including China next summer.

### TOUR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE

If repeat invitations are a measure of a tour's success, Les Grands Ballets made a big splash in the Middle East and Europe this past June. The company has been invited to return in the coming years to each of the cities it performed in, namely Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in Israel, Cairo in Egypt, Ljubljana in Slovenia and Baden-Baden in Germany.

The productive tour was clearly spectacular, with 11 performances before more than 14,300 spectators in less than three weeks, and in four countries with very different cultures. Les Grands Ballets had to pull out all the stops to cover the \$675,000 in direct costs, particularly given the Canadian government's axing of the PromArt and Trade Routes cultural programs. Les Grands' trip would not have been possible without special funding from the Government of Québec, and the financial support of donors and sponsors from Canada's Jewish community, as well as Egyptian companies and Canadian embassies abroad.



---

### JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL

From July 29 to August 2, Les Grands had the pleasure of participating in the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, with six performances of Mauro Bigonzetti's *Four Seasons* and *Cantata*, to the delight of the 3,600 ballet enthusiasts.

### COMING TOURS

Les Grands will attend the Fall for Dance Festival on September 24 and 25, where the troupe will perform Stijn Celis's *Noces* at the New York City Center.

Back on home turf, the company will give six performances of Fernand Nault's timeless classic, *The Nutcracker* at the Grand Théâtre in Québec City from December 2 to 6.

In April 2010, shows are scheduled in **Bonn**, Germany, and **Vicenza**, Italy, with performances of Ohad Naharin's *Minus One* and Mats Ek's *Sleeping Beauty*. Les Grands will also have the honour of attending the **Venice Biennale** in June 2010. A tour project in **China** in July 2010 is also in the works, starting off with the company's participation in the **World Expo 2010 Shanghai**, followed by stopovers in **Beijing**, **Suzhou** and **Guangzhou**.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens receives financial support from the **Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec**, from the **Canada Council for the Arts** and from the **Conseil des arts de Montréal**.

– 30 –

#### Information:

Isabelle Gagnon, Press Officer  
Phone: 514 849-8681, ext. 230  
igagnon@grandsballets.com

Francine Arsenault, Communications Director  
Phone: 514 849-8681, ext. 227  
farsenault@grandsballets.com

[www.grandsballets.com](http://www.grandsballets.com)