

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

2011 BENEFIT GALA

A foretaste of China

Les Grands Ballets is taking its dance to Asia!

Montreal, March 8, 2011 – As a prelude to next summer’s tour, China will be the theme of the 2011 Benefit Gala of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal. Presided over by **Guy Hachey**, President and Chief Operating Officer of Bombardier, and his wife **Christiane Hachey**, the event will take place on **April 2** beginning at **6 p.m.** at **Uniprix Stadium, Jarry Park**. On the program: an evening of dancing, needless to say, and a draw for over 500 prizes.

The Gala will begin with a cocktail reception followed by a gourmet dinner/dance. Hosted by **Mireille Deyglun**, the evening will feature an excerpt from Italian choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti’s *Cantata* performed by Les GBCM dancers, accompanied by the vibrant singers of the Gruppo musicale Assurd from southern Italy. An orchestra will keep things moving for our guests on the dance floor. **Several prizes will be given away**, including two Air Canada tickets to any destination in Europe.

Over 600 people are expected to attend, and this year’s goal is to raise \$550,000. Tables range from \$6,000 to \$25,000; individual tickets cost \$600. A Montreal tradition that unfolds each year with a different theme, the Gala serves to support the company’s international projects. It is the focal event in a fundraising campaign designed to fulfill the company’s mandate and increase its visibility worldwide.

After Paris in 2008, the Middle East in 2009, the Venice Biennale and Jacob’s Pillow (U.S.) in 2010, Les Grands Ballets will head for **China** in July. It will perform in four cities: at the New Opera House in Beijing, the Shanghai Oriental Art Centre, the Grand Theatre in Suzhou and the Guangzhou Opera House. The company will present *Minus One* by Italian choreographer Ohad Naharin, a work that has enthralled audiences wherever it has played.

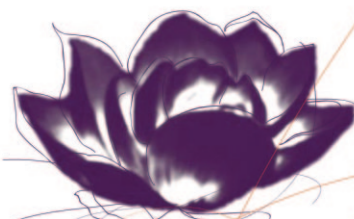
“Despite the fact that Les Grands Ballets were the first Canadian dance troupe to perform in China in 1984, the company has not been back since,” **Guy Hachey** points out. “Since the country is experiencing a sharp economic upturn, raising it to the upper echelon of world leaders, it is perfect timing for a company of this stature to benefit from a parallel cultural upturn. The Chinese public is avid for artistic productions, and in particular contemporary ballet.”

Guy Hachey’s involvement will no doubt help Les Grands Ballets to perform its role as cultural ambassadors in China.

Gala information and reservations: Liberty Castelin, 514-849-8681, ext. 229 or lcastelin@grandsballets.com

- 30 -

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



加拿大蒙特利爾芭蕾舞團

..... Les Grands Ballets convoitent l’Asie !