

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL FLYING TO CHINA IN JULY



Photo: John Hall

Montreal, July 4, 2011 — Next stop, Asia! After Paris in 2008, the Middle East in 2009, Venice in 2010, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal is crossing another ocean this summer. This time towards China, where the company will perform at the **National Centre for the Performing Arts** in **Beijing** (July 20 and 21), the **Development Area Grand Theatre** in **Dalian** (July 24 and 25) and the **Guangzhou Opera House** (July 30 and 31). Les Grands Ballets will present *Minus One* by Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin, a work of infectious enthusiasm, among the most popular in the company's repertoire.

Les Grands Ballets was the first Canadian company to perform in China, with a four-city tour in 1984 (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong) that featured two "neo-classical" programs: *Concerto Barocco* (G. Balanchine), *Double Quatuor* (B. MacDonal), *Jardin aux lilas* (A. Tudor), *Red Ribbon Dance* (Zhang Yu Yi) and *Tam di Delam* (B. MacDonal); and *Sérénade* (G. Balanchine), *Soaring* (D. Humphrey/R. St-Denis), *In Paradisum* (J. Kudelka) and *Bal des Cadets* (D. Lichine). The troupe has not been back to China since.

Last April, the company's annual Gala Benefit managed to raise \$335,000 for the tour. "Given that China is enjoying a sharp economic upturn, raising it to the upper echelon of world leaders, it is perfect timing for a company such as Les GBCM to benefit from a parallel cultural upturn," remarked Guy Hachey, Honorary President of the Gala and President and CEO of Bombardier Aerospace. "The Chinese public is very eager to see new artistic productions, and in particular contemporary ballet."



Minus One is a seven-part collage of highlights from previous works, which has left critics and public spellbound. Against a bewitching musical backdrop, a blend of traditional and popular songs, Baroque music, ethnic rhythms and original compositions, the thirty-odd dancers revel to their heart's delight. In a highly festive atmosphere, they are in turn joyful, meditative, comical and perfectly synchronized, in a bold and singular choreography suffused with grace, agility and humour. *Minus One* features the extravagant energy, the destabilizing and unpredictable movement and rich musicality that have become Naharin's trademarks.

A reception organized by the Canadian Embassy in China and the Québec Government Office in Beijing will follow the opening performance on July 20, 2011.

The performances of Les Grands Ballets in China, as well as the master classes, are part of an exchange program with Chinese cultural institutions, as was the case with the Guangzhou Ballet's visit here in 2010.

Sponsoring Partners and Organizations

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal wishes to thank **Air Canada**, its **Official Airline**. Special thanks to **Bombardier** as well for its great contribution.

Les GBCM wishes to acknowledge the **Canadian Embassy in China**, the **Québec Government Office in Beijing** and the **Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Canada** for their special support.

The company **would like to thank** the **Government of Quebec**, the **Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec** and the **Canada Council for the Arts** for their continuing support.

– 30 –

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