

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Newly Designed *Onegin* Unveiled June 19

Jiří Jelinek Dances Eugene Onegin on Opening Night
Guillaume Côté and McGee Maddox Debut as Eugene Onegin
Sonia Rodriguez and Heather Ogden Debut as Tatiana

On Stage
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts

Mailing Address
The Walter Carsen
Centre for
The National Ballet
of Canada
470 Queens Quay West
Toronto, Ontario
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Charitable
Registration Number
11905 1449 RR0001

May 5, 2010... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, today announced the principal casting for *Onegin*, which opens on June 19, 2010 at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts and features glorious new sets and costumes by **Santo Loquasto**.

Principal Dancer **Jiří Jelinek** will dance the role of Eugene Onegin on opening night, June 19, at 7:30 pm. One of Mr. Jelinek's most acclaimed roles, he has performed in *Onegin* with companies throughout Europe and Asia. He will dance with Principal Dancer **Xiao Nan Yu** as Tatiana.

The opening night cast will also feature Principal Dancers **Guillaume Côté** as Lensky, **Heather Ogden** as Olga, who makes her debut in the role, and a special appearance by Artist-in-Residence **Rex Harrington** as Prince Gremin.

Principal Dancer **Sonia Rodriguez** makes her debut as Tatiana and on June 22, the National Ballet celebrates her 20th anniversary performing with the company.

Principal Dancer **Guillaume Côté** and Corps de Ballet member **McGee Maddox** will make their debuts in the role of Eugene Onegin and Principal Dancer **Heather Ogden** makes debut as Tatiana. Other debuts include Principal Dancer **Piotr Stanczyk** and Second Soloist **Brett van Sickle** in the role of Lensky and Principal Dancer **Bridgett Zehr** and First Soloist **Jillian Vanstone** in the role of Olga. First Soloists **Jonathan Renna**, **Etienne Lavigne** and Second Soloist **Noah Long** also make their debuts as Prince Gremin.

Based on the narrative poem *Eugene Onegin* by **Alexander Pushkin**, *Onegin* is the story of unrequited love in the fated meeting of an innocent young girl with a cynical aristocrat. **John Cranko**'s 1965 ballet adaptation employs his distinctive choreographic style to capture the original story's emotional intensity, drama and tragedy with striking fidelity and perceptiveness. Along with his great versions of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Onegin* must rank as one of Cranko's – and modern ballet's – finest adaptations.

Onegin was staged for The National Ballet of Canada by Reid Anderson. Mr. Anderson was the Artistic Director of the National Ballet from 1989 until 1996 and is now Artistic Director of Stuttgart Ballet.

Principal Casting

Eugene Onegin

Aleksandar Antonijevic (June 19 at 2:00 pm/June 22 at 7:30 pm)

Jiří Jelinek (June 19, 23, 25 at 7:30 pm)

Guillaume Côté* (June 20 at 2:00 pm/June 24 at 7:30 pm)

McGee Maddox* (June 24 at 2:00 pm)

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Lensky, his friend
Piotr Stanczyk* (June 19 at 2:00 pm/June 22 at 7:30 pm)
Guillaume Côté (June 19, 23 at 7:30 pm)
Zdenek Konvalina (June 20 at 2:00 pm/June 24 at 7:30 pm)
Brett van Sickle* (June 24 at 2:00 pm/June 25 at 7:30 pm)

Madame Larina, a widow
Victoria Bertram

Tatiana, her daughter
Sonia Rodriguez* (June 19 at 2:00 pm/June 22 at 7:30 pm)
Xiao Nan Yu (June 19, 23, 25 at 7:30 pm)
Greta Hodgkinson (June 20 at 2:00 pm/June 24 at 7:30 pm)
Heather Ogden* (June 24 at 2:00 pm)

Olga, another daughter
Stacey Shiori Minagawa (June 19 at 2:00 pm/June 22 at 7:30 pm)
Heather Ogden* (June 19, 23 at 7:30 pm)
Jillian Vanstone* (June 20 at 2:00 pm/June 24 at 7:30 pm)
Bridgett Zehr* (June 24 at 2:00 pm/June 25 at 7:30 pm)

Nurse to Tatiana and Olga
Lorna Geddes

Prince Gremin, friend to the Larina family
Jonathan Renna* (June 19 at 2:00 pm/June 22 at 7:30 pm)
Rex Harrington* (June 19 at 7:30 pm)
Etienne Lavigne* (June 20 at 2:00 pm/June 24 at 7:30 pm)
Patrick Lavoie (June 23, 25 at 7:30 pm)
Noah Long* (June 24 at 2:00 pm)

* debuts
* Artist-in-Residence

All casting subject to change

Onegin

Saturday, June 19 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
Sunday, June 20 at 2:00 pm
Tuesday, June 22 at 7:30 pm
Wednesday, June 23 at 7:30 pm
Thursday, June 24 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
Friday, June 25 at 7:30 pm

Tickets:

Prices range from \$20 to \$210.

Discount rates are available for groups of 10 people or more. Rush seats are available on the day of the performance in person at the box office for \$30.

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DanceBreak members aged 16 to 29 can purchase \$25 tickets on the day of the performance, subject to availability. Visit DanceBreak.ca

Venue:

Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen Street West, Toronto

Box Office:

The box office is located at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts (145 Queen Street West) or call 416 (toll free 1 866) 345 9595. Tickets can also be purchased online at national.ballet.ca

Website: national.ballet.ca

The 2009/10 season is presented by CTV and The Globe and Mail.

Onegin is generously supported by an anonymous friend of the National Ballet.

Guillaume Côté is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Emmanuelle Gattuso & Allan Slaight.

Zdenek Konvalina is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Gretchen Ross.

Bridgett Zehr is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Diana Weatherall.

Noah Long is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Sandra Faire & Ivan Fecan.

Performance Sponsors: VISA (June 22 at 7:30 pm), Air Canada (June 24 at 7:30 pm) and CTV and The Globe and Mail (June 25 at 7:30 pm)

The National Ballet of Canada gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the Canada Council for the Arts; the Ontario Arts Council; the City of Toronto through the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Department; the Government of Canada through the Honourable James Moore, Minister, the Department of Canadian Heritage; the Government of Ontario; the Ontario Arts Foundation; the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

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