

Carmen Reinvented Opens June 6 with *Skin Divers* Principal Casting Announced

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
Canada M5V 3K4

Administration
416 345 9686

Fax
416 345 8323

Website
national.ballet.ca

Charitable
Business Number
11905 1449 RR0001

May 25, 2009... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, today announced the principal casting for the North American premieres of **Davide Bombana's** *Carmen* and **Dominique Dumais' Skin Divers**. *Carmen* & *Skin Divers* begins June 6 at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

There have been many ballet versions of the story of *Carmen*, but never has there been one like this groundbreaking re-conceptualization by Italian choreographer Davide Bombana. Based on the Bizet opera, Bombana's ballet version of the tale goes straight for the primal passions at the heart of the story with a choreographic vigour and energy rarely seen on the stage.

The opening night performance of *Carmen* will feature **Heather Ogden** in the role of Carmen, **Noah Long** as Don José, **Robert Stephen** as Garcia, **Sonia Rodriguez** as Michaela and **Jonathan Renna** as Escamillo.

Dominique Dumais' reputation as one of Canadian choreography's most important voices is demonstrated in her work *Skin Divers*, inspired by **Anne Michaels'** book of poetry of the same name (McLelland & Stewart, 1999). Incorporating both spoken word and visual projections as complements to the choreography, *Skin Divers* explores the concept of "the body as a living archive of experience, or a museum of memory."

Skin Divers will feature an ensemble cast of **Jordana Daumec**, **Keiichi Hirano**, **Stephanie Hutchison**, **Lise-Marie Jourdain**, **Patrick Lavoie**, **Martin Lindinger**, **Noah Long**, **Andreea Olteanu**, **Alejandra Perez-Gomez**, **Jonathan Renna**, **Rebekah Rimsay**, **Jenna Savella**, **Robert Stephen** and **Jillian Vanstone**.

All ticket holders can enjoy a flamenco music performance featuring guitarists and singers from the Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Company, presented by Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts + Creativity, 45 minutes before every show in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre, in lieu of Ballet Talks.

Principal Casting

Carmen

Carmen	Tina Pereira (June 6, 14 at 2:00 pm/ June 12 at 7:30 pm) Heather Ogden (June 6, 10, 13 at 7:30 pm) Bridgett Zehr (June 7, 13 at 2:00 pm/ June 11 at 7:30 pm)
Don José	Piotr Stanczyk (June 6, 14 at 2:00 pm/ June 12 at 7:30 pm) Noah Long (June 6, 10, 13 at 7:30 pm)

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Media Release

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
Canada M5V 3K4

Administration
416 345 9686

Fax
416 345 8323

Website
national.ballet.ca

Charitable
Business Number
11905 1449 RR0001

Aleksandar Antonijevic (June 7, 13 at 2:00 pm/ June 11 at 7:30 pm)

Garcia **Keiichi Hirano** (June 6, 14 at 2:00 pm/ June 12 at 7:30 pm)
Robert Stephen (June 6, 10, 13 at 7:30 pm)
Christopher Stalzer (June 7, 13 at 2:00 pm/ June 11 at 7:30 pm)

Michaela **Xiao Nan Yu** (June 6, 14 at 2:00 pm/ June 12 at 7:30 pm)
Sonia Rodriguez (June 6, 10, 13 at 7:30 pm)
Stephanie Hutchison (June 7, 13 at 2:00 pm/ June 11 at 7:30 pm)

Escamillo **Kevin D. Bowles** (June 6, 14 at 2:00 pm/ June 12 at 7:30 pm)
Jonathan Renna (June 6, 10, 13 at 7:30 pm)
Aarik Wells (June 7, 13 at 2:00 pm/ June 11 at 7:30 pm)

Skin Divers

Andreea Olteanu and **Noah Long**, **Jillian Vanstone** and **Robert Stephen**, **Lise-Marie Jourdain** and **Keiichi Hirano**, **Rebekah Rimsay** and **Jonathan Renna**
(June 6, 7, 13, 14 at 2:00 pm/ June 11 at 7:30 pm)

Jordana Daumec and **Keiichi Hirano**, **Jenna Savella** and **Martin Lindinger**,
Stephanie Hutchison and **Jonathan Renna**, **Alejandra Perez-Gomez** and **Patrick Lavoie**
(June 6, 10, 12, 13 at 7:30 pm)

Casting is subject to change.

Carmen & Skin Divers

Saturday, June 6 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
Sunday, June 7 at 2:00 pm
Wednesday, June 10 at 7:30 pm
Thursday, June 11 at 7:30 pm
Friday, June 12 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, June 13 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
Sunday, June 14 at 2:00 pm

Tickets:
Prices range from \$20 to \$200.

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. DanceBreak members aged 16 to 29 can purchase \$20 tickets on the day of the performance, depending on 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

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

national.ballet.ca.

Website: national.ballet.ca.

The 2008/09 season is presented by CTV and The Globe and Mail.

Carmen is generously supported in part by Margaret Fleck & Jim Fleck, O.C., and Gretchen & Donald Ross.

Carmen & *Skin Divers* are presented as part of the third annual Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts + Creativity.

Performance Sponsor: CTV and The Globe and Mail (June 10 at 7:30 pm)

Performance Sponsor: Fasken Martineau (June 11 at 7:30 pm)

Performance Sponsor: Judith & Robert Lawrie (June 12 at 7:30 pm)

Performance Sponsor: VIA Rail Canada (June 13 at 2:00 pm)

Performance Sponsor: Elaine J. Adair (June 13 at 7:30 pm)

Keiichi Hirano is sponsored through *Dancers First* by an anonymous donor.

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

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

Robert Stephen is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Thor & Nicole Eaton.

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.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Catherine Chang
Senior Public Relations Manager
416 345 9686 x302
cchang@national.ballet.ca
national.ballet.ca

Wendy Liebner
Publicity Coordinator
416 345 9686 x332
wliebner@national.ballet.ca
national.ballet.ca