

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Media Release

#35/58

Giselle Almost Sold Out Retiring Principal Dancer Chan Hon Goh's Final *Giselle* San Francisco Ballet's Ruben Martin to Guest Sir Peter Wright Hosts Opening Night Ballet Talk

On Stage
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts

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The Walter Carsen
Centre for
The National Ballet
of Canada
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Charitable
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11905 1449 RR0001

April 29, 2009... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, today announced that Principal Dancer **Chan Hon Goh**, who retires at the end of the 2008/09 season after 20 years of brilliant performances with the National Ballet, will dance her final performances of *Giselle* on May 27 at 7:30 pm and May 31, 2009 at 2:00 pm. Performances are almost sold out with best availability on May 27.

The role of *Giselle* has been called "the ballerina's Hamlet" and is one of ballet's most complex and demanding roles. This season, Principal Dancers **Chan Hon Goh**, **Greta Hodgkinson**, **Sonia Rodriguez** and **Xiao Nan Yu** return to this challenging role. First Soloist **Bridgett Zehr** will make her Toronto debut in the role. The role of Albrecht will be performed by Principal Dancers **Aleksandar Antonijevic**, **Guillaume Côté** and **Zdenek Konvalina**. Principal Dancer **Piotr Stanczyk** and Principal Character Artist **Kevin D. Bowles** dance the role of Hilarion and First Soloist **Etienne Lavigne** and Second Soloist **Jonathan Renna** will debut in the role. The Queen of the Wilis will be danced by Principal Dancers **Heather Ogden** and **Xiao Nan Yu** and First Soloist **Stephanie Hutchison**.

Guest Artist **Ruben Martin**, Principal Dancer with San Francisco Ballet, will dance the role of Albrecht on May 28 at 7:30 pm with **Sonia Rodriguez**. Mr. Martin was born in Reus, Spain, and trained at Escuela Municipal de Danza and Estudio de Danza de Maria de Avila. Major roles include Prince Siegfried and von Rothbart in Helgi Tomasson's *Swan Lake*, Albrecht in Tomasson's *Giselle*, Espada in Tomasson/Possokhov's *Don Quixote* and the Nutcracker Prince and Snow King in Tomasson's *Nutcracker*. This will be Mr. Martin's first engagement with the National Ballet.

Since its premiere with the company in 1970, **Sir Peter Wright's** *Giselle* has been a mainstay of the National Ballet's classical repertoire. The role of *Giselle* is a highly emotional and technical one, setting the bar to which the very best dancers aspire. Successive generations of female Principal Dancers have risen to the challenge to interpret this beautiful, spiritual role.

The National Ballet of Canada's *Giselle* was choreographed by **Sir Peter Wright** in 1965. Sets and costumes are designed by **Desmond Heeley** with lighting by **Gil Wechsler**. The National Ballet of Canada Orchestra is conducted by the National Ballet Music Director and Principal Conductor **David Briskin**.

Sir Peter Wright and dance critic **Michael Crabb** will host the opening night Ballet Talk 45 minutes prior to the performance of *Giselle*, offering insight and illumination about the ballet.

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Principal Casting

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Giselle	Chan Hon Goh (May 27 at 7:30 pm/ May 31 at 2:00 pm) Greta Hodgkinson (May 28 at 2:00 pm/ May 30 at 7:30 pm) Sonia Rodriguez (May 28 at 7:30 pm) Xiao Nan Yu (May 29 at 7:30 pm) Bridgett Zehr (May 30 at 2:00 pm)
Albrecht	Zdenek Konvalina (May 27 at 7:30 pm/ May 30 at 2:00 pm/ May 31 at 2:00 pm) Aleksandar Antonijevic (May 28 at 2:00 pm/ May 30 at 7:30 pm) Ruben Martin** (May 28 at 7:30 pm) Guillaume Côté (May 29 at 7:30 pm)
Hilarion	Piotr Stanczyk (May 27 at 7:30 pm/ May 31 at 2:00 pm) Etienne Lavigne* (May 28 at 2:00 pm/ May 30 at 7:30 pm) Jonathan Renna* (May 28 at 7:30 pm) Kevin D. Bowles (May 29 at 7:30 pm/ May 30 at 2:00 pm)
Queen of the Willis	Heather Ogden (May 27 at 7:30 pm/ May 28 at 7:30 pm/ May 29 at 7:30 pm) Stephanie Hutchison (May 28 at 2:00 pm/ May 30 at 2:00 pm) Xiao Nan Yu (May 30 at 7:30 pm/ May 31 at 2:00 pm)

** Guest Artist * Debut
Casting is subject to change.

Giselle

Wednesday, May 27 at 7:30 pm
Thursday, May 28 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
Friday, May 29 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, May 30 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
Sunday, May 31 at 2:00 pm

[Biography of Chan Hon Goh >](#)

[Biography of Ruben Martin >](#)

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:

Box Office
416 345 9595
Toll Free 1 866 345 9595
tickets@national.ballet.ca

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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.

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

Giselle was produced as a memorial to the late William P. Walker and was made possible through the courtesy of many generous friends of the National Ballet.

Administration
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Osler Hoskin & Harcourt LLP is the Performance Sponsor for May 27 at 7:30 pm.

Fax
416 345 8323

KPMG LLP is the Performance Sponsor for May 28 at 7:30 pm.

Website
national.ballet.ca

CTV is the Performance Sponsor for May 29 at 7:30 pm.

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VIA Rail is the Performance Sponsor for May 30 at 7:30 pm.

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 St. B. Weatherall.

The appearance of Ruben Martin is made possible by a generous donation from the Frank Gerstein Charitable Foundation.

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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ONLINE IMAGE LIBRARY:

Media are invited to download photos of *Giselle* at
<http://national.ballet.ca/media/MediaImageGallery/coppermine/index.php>

User Name: Media **Password:** Media*Ballet

Please note that the User Name and Password are case sensitive.

This site is for media use only.

For more information, please contact:

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