

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

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New Principal Dancer Jiří Jelinek

November 20, 2009... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, is pleased to announce that **Jiří Jelinek** will join the National Ballet as a Principal Dancer in January 2010. Mr. Jelinek has been a Principal Dancer at Stuttgart Ballet and danced extensively throughout Europe.

"Jiří's strong dramatic stage presence will be a great addition to the company. I am delighted that he will be joining the company in the new year," says Ms. Kain.

Mr. Jelinek says, "I have achieved a lot in Prague and Stuttgart and I consider myself very lucky to be given the chance for a third career as Principal with The National Ballet of Canada."

Jiří Jelinek was born in Prague and trained at the Conservatory of Dance and the Ballet School of The Hamburg Ballet. He joined the National Theatre in Prague in 1997 as Soloist and was promoted to Principal Dancer in 1998. Mr. Jelinek joined Stuttgart Ballet's Corp de Ballet in 2001, was promoted to Demi Soloist in 2002, Soloist in 2003 and Principal Dancer in 2004. With Stuttgart Ballet, Mr. Jelinek has danced numerous major roles in full-length ballets by significant choreographers such as the title role in *Onegin*, Romeo and Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet*, Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Gremin in *Onegin*, Siegfried and Rothbart in *Swan Lake* (all: John Cranko), Armand Duval in *The Lady of the Camellias*, Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (both: John Neumeier) and Hilarion in *Giselle* (Production: Reid Anderson, Valentina Savina). His wide ranging repertoire includes major roles such as Apollo in the ballet of the same name by George Balanchine, Mortimer and Lightborn in *Edward II* (David Bintley) and the role of Dr. Franz Schöning in the full-length ballet *Lulu. A Monstre Tragedy* by Christian Spuck, Choreographer in Residence of Stuttgart Ballet. Mr. Jelinek has danced a great number of solo roles in neoclassical and modern ballets by such renowned choreographers as Maurice Béjart, Jerome Robbins, William Forsythe, Glen Tetley, Uwe Scholz, Itzik Galili, Jiří Kylián, Hans van Manen and Jorma Elo. Many roles have been created for him by contemporary choreographers, among them Christian Spuck, Kevin O'Day, Nicolo Fonte, Wayne McGregor, Matjash Mrozewski and Stefan Stewart. In 2006, the audience and press enthusiastically acclaimed his interpretation of the title role in *Onegin* (John Cranko) at the State Opera in Vienna. Most recently the Hamburg Ballet invited him to dance Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (John Neumeier) in 2009.

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

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