

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

#9

The Nutcracker Opens December 12 Sonia Rodriguez Celebrates 20th Anniversary

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
Registration Number
11905 1449 RR0001

December 7, 2009 ... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, today announced that Principal Dancer **Sonia Rodriguez**, who celebrates her 20th anniversary with the company this year, will perform the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy on the opening performance of *The Nutcracker* on Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 2:00 pm. Principal Dancer **Aleksandar Antonijevic** will dance the role of Peter/The Nutcracker.

Ms. Rodriguez studied dance in Madrid with Pedro de la Cruz and at the Princess Grace Academy in Monaco and has been a Principal Dancer since 2000. Ms. Rodriguez has performed the leading ballerina roles in all the major classics as well as important lead roles in numerous George Balanchine ballets, including *Mozartiana*, *Theme and Variations*, *Serenade*, *Diamonds* from *Jewels* and *Dulcinea* in Suzanne Farrell's re-staging of *Balanchine's Don Quixote*. Ms. Rodriguez created the title role in *Cinderella* and Princess Vasilisa in *The Firebird*. In 2008, she danced the role of Nina in the North American premiere of John Neumeier's *The Seagull* and has performed in many contemporary works such as Marie Chouinard's *24 Preludes by Chopin* and, just last month, in the world premiere of Aszure Barton's *Watch her*.

The evening performance on December 12 will feature Principal Dancers **Heather Ogden** and **Guillaume Côté** in the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Peter/The Nutcracker.

Second Soloist **Robert Stephen** makes his debut as Uncle Nikolai. Mr. Stephen was promoted to Second Soloist in 2009 and recently performed a featured role in *Watch her*.

The Nutcracker choreography and libretto are by **James Kudelka**, music by **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**, set and costume design by **Santo Loquasto** and lighting design by **Jennifer Tipton**.

Nutcracker Story Time will continue this year, beginning 45 minutes prior to every performance. This engaging, interactive telling of *The Nutcracker* will take place in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre of the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

The Nutcracker is on stage at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts from December 12, 2009 to January 3, 2010. For more information, visit thenutcracker.ca.

Principal Casting

The Sugar Plum Fairy

Sonia Rodriguez (Dec. 12 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 13, 27, 29 at 5:30 pm)

Heather Ogden (Dec. 12, 19 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 20, 23 at 5:30 pm)

Jillian Vanstone (Dec. 13, 20 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 18 at 7:00 pm/Jan. 3 at 1:00 pm)

Bridgett Zehr (Dec. 16 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 22, 30, Jan. 2 at 5:30 pm/Dec. 28 at 1:00 pm)

Tina Pereira (Dec. 17 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 19 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 23, 30 at 1:00 pm)

Stacey Shiori Minagawa (Dec. 22, 27, 29, Jan. 2 at 1:00 pm)

Peter/ The Nutcracker

Aleksandar Antonijevic (Dec. 12 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 13 at 5:30 pm/Dec. 16 at 7:00 pm)

Audience and
Donor Services
416 345 9595
1 866 345 9595
tickets@national.ballet.ca

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Guillaume Côté (Dec. 12, 19 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 20, 23 at 5:30 pm)
Etienne Lavigne (Dec. 13, 20 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 18 at 7:00 pm)
Keiichi Hirano (Dec. 17 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 19 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 23, 30 at 1:00 pm)
Richard Landry (Dec. 22, 27, 29, Jan. 2 at 1:00 pm)
Zdenek Konvalina (Dec. 22, 30, Jan. 2 at 5:30 pm/Dec. 28 at 1:00 pm)
Piotr Stanczyk (Dec. 27, 29 at 5:30 pm/Jan. 3 at 1:00 pm)

Snow Queen and her Icicles

Tanya Howard, Nan Wang, Brett van Sickle (Dec. 12 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 13 at 5:30 pm/Dec. 16 at 7:00 pm)
Xiao Nan Yu, Noah Long, Aarik Wells (Dec. 12 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 28 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 30, Jan. 2 at 5:30 pm)
Elena Lobsanova, James Shee, Jonathan Renna (Dec. 13, 20 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 18 at 7:00)
Stephanie Hutchison, Etienne Lavigne, Patrick Lavoie (Dec. 17 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 19 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 23, 30 at 1:00 pm)
Xiao Nan Yu, McGee Maddox*, Aarik Wells (Dec. 19 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 20, 22, 23 at 5:30 pm)
Rebekah Rimsay, Keiichi Hirano, Patrick Lavoie (Dec. 22, 27, 29, Jan. 2 at 1:00 pm)
Elena Lobsanova, Nan Wang, Brett van Sickle (Dec. 27, 29 at 5:30 pm/Jan. 3 at 1:00 pm)

Baba, Marie and Misha's nurse

Victoria Bertram (Dec. 12 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 13, 20, 28 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 18 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 22, 30, Jan. 2 at 5:30 pm)
Lorna Geddes (Dec. 12, 19 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 13, 20, 23 at 5:30 pm)
Rebekah Rimsay* (Dec. 16 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 19 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 23, 30, Jan. 3 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 27, 29 at 5:30 pm)
Lisa Robinson (Dec. 17 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 22, 27, 29, Jan. 2 at 1:00 pm)

Uncle Nikolai

Noah Long (Dec. 12 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 13 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 19 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 20, 23 at 5:30 pm)
Piotr Stanczyk (Dec. 12 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 13, 22 at 5:30 pm)
Jonathan Renna (Dec. 16 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 22, 27, 29, Jan. 2 at 1:00 pm)
Kevin D. Bowles (Dec. 17 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 19 at 2:00 pm/Dec. 23, 30, Jan. 3 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 27, 29 at 5:30 pm)
Robert Stephen* (Dec. 18 at 7:00 pm/Dec. 20, 28 at 1:00 pm/Dec. 30, Jan. 2 at 5:30 pm)

* Debut. All casting subject to change.

December 12 at 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
December 13 at 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
December 16 at 7:00 pm
December 17 at 7:00 pm
December 18 at 7:00 pm
December 19 at 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
December 20 at 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
December 22 at 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
December 23 at 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
December 27 at 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm

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December 28 at 1:00 pm
December 29 at 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
December 30 at 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
January 2 at 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
January 3 at 1:00 pm

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Tickets:

Adults: \$45 – \$121
Children: \$33 – \$106

Discount rates are available for groups of 10 people or more. Holiday 4-Packs can be purchased for \$149 – \$399.

Visit thenutcracker.ca for more details.

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: thenutcracker.ca

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

TD Waterhouse presents *The Nutcracker*.

The Nutcracker is made possible by generous financial support from production underwriters Sandra & Jim Pitblado, Lawrence & Ann Heisey and an anonymous friend of the Ballet.

The National Ballet of Canada dedicates the 2009/10 season performances of *The Nutcracker* to the memory of Lawrence and Ann Heisey.

Performance Sponsors: Fingerprint Communications (Dec. 12 evening), CTV and The Globe and Mail (Dec. 13 matinee), VIA Rail Canada (Dec. 16), KPMG (Dec. 17), Gatsby Valet (Dec. 18), RBC (Dec. 19 matinee), Heys International (Dec. 20 matinee).

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.

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

Elena Lobanova is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Sandra Faire & Ivan Fecan.

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

Jenna Savella is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Elvio & Marlene DelZotto.

Robert Stephen is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Mr. Thor Eaton & The Honourable Nicole Eaton, Senator.

James Shee is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Mona & Harvey Levenstein.

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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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