

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Swan Lake Principal Casting Announced Bridgett Zehr Debuts as Odette/Odile Jiří Jelinek and Zdenek Konvalina Debut as Siegfried

#14

On Stage
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts

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February 17, 2010... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, today announced the principal casting for *Swan Lake*, which opens on March 11, 2010 at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

Principal Dancer **Bridgett Zehr** makes her debut dancing the role of Odette/Odile. Making their debuts as Siegfried in **James Kudelka's** *Swan Lake* are Principal Dancers **Jiří Jelinek** and **Zdenek Konvalina**. First Soloist **Patrick Lavoie** and Second Soloist **Noah Long** make their debuts as Rothbart.

The opening night performance on March 11 will feature Principal Dancers **Heather Ogden** in the role of Odette/Odile and **Guillaume Côté** in the role of Siegfried. Principal Dancers **Sonia Rodriguez** and **Xiao Nan Yu** will also dance the role of Odette/Odile and Principal Dancer **Aleksandar Antonijevic** will perform the role of Siegfried.

One of the most revered ballets of all time, *Swan Lake* premiered over a century ago in Russia and remains a timeless classic, expressing a range of human emotions accented by Tchaikovsky's luminous score. Mr. Kudelka's 1999 version of the ballet adheres to its essentially fable-like nature but locates a new and rich trove of thematic implications in the material, re-thinking it for a contemporary audience. **Santo Loquasto's** superbly evocative sets and costumes provide the perfect setting for a work of arresting beauty.

The opening night pre-show Ballet Talk will be given by former Principal Dancer **Jennifer Fournier** 45 minutes prior to the curtain.

Principal Casting

Siegfried

Guillaume Côté (March 11, 17, 19 at 7:30 pm/March 14 at 2:00 pm)
Jiří Jelinek* (March 12, 18 at 7:30 pm/March 21 at 2:00 pm)
Zdenek Konvalina* (March 13, 18 at 2:00 pm/March 20 at 7:30 pm)
Aleksandar Antonijevic (March 13, 16 at 7:30 pm/March 20 at 2:00 pm)

Odette / Odile

Heather Ogden (March 11, 17, 19 at 7:30 pm/March 14 at 2:00 pm)
Xiao Nan Yu (March 12, 18 at 7:30 pm/March 21 at 2:00 pm)
Bridgett Zehr* (March 13, 18 at 2:00 pm/March 20 at 7:30 pm)
Sonia Rodriguez (March 13, 16 at 7:30 pm/March 20 at 2:00 pm)

Rothbart

Noah Long* (March 11, 17, 19 at 7:30 pm/March 14 at 2:00 pm)
Patrick Lavoie* (March 12, 18 at 7:30 pm/March 21 at 2:00 pm)
Kevin D. Bowles (March 13, 18 at 2:00 pm/March 20 at 7:30 pm)
Etienne Lavigne (March 13, 16 at 7:30 pm/March 20 at 2:00 pm)

* Debut Casting subject to change.

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Swan Lake

Thursday, March 11 at 7:30 pm
Friday, March 12 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, March 13 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
Sunday, March 14 at 2:00 pm
Tuesday, March 16 at 7:30 pm
Wednesday, March 17 at 7:30 pm
Thursday, March 18 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
Friday, March 19 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, March 20 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
Sunday, March 21 at 2:00 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.

DanceBreak members aged 16 to 29 can purchase \$25 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 national.ballet.ca

Website: national.ballet.ca

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

Swan Lake is made possible by generous financial support from production underwriters Sandra & Jim Pitblado and Margaret & Jim Fleck.

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: CTV and The Globe & Mail (March 16 at 7:30 pm), KPMG (March 18 at 7:30 pm) and Fairmont Royal York (March 20 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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