



PHOTO: SASHA ONYSHCHENKO - DANCER: RODDY DOBLE

2023—2024
SEASON

Les Grands Ballets' 2023-2024 season is unveiled!

Montreal, March 13, 2023 - Les Grands Ballets is happy to unveil its 2023-2024 season, the company's 67th at Place des Arts. For its 7th year at the helm of artistic direction, Ivan Cavallari invites the audience to experience emotional journeys through dance.

Early September 2023, ***Cinderella*** by Jayne Smeulders will be back on the stage of Wilfrid-Pelletier for additional performances. Thanks to this addition of three shows, more spectators will enjoy this ballet en pointes, faithful to the tradition of fairytales.

In October, Peter Quanz is invited by Ivan Cavallari to present his creation ***La Dame aux camélias*** inspired by the masterpiece of Alexandre Dumas fils. In this Neoclassical ballet, he explores emotional vulnerability, inspired by the fragile and ephemeral beauty of camellias. The costumes and set design evoke the glamour and elegance of Parisian salons while an exclusive orchestral score features compositions by female composers from different epochs.



Photo: Sasha Onyschenko

"I invite you to experience these works through the lens of love, a feeling so deep that it allows us to touch eternity."

Ivan Cavallari, Artistic Director

Contemporary dance will shine in the mixed bill ***Cantata***: the love of choreographers for their art will offer a show at turns visceral and passionate, sensible and dreamy. The choreographic duo Jérémy Galdeano et Věra Kvarčáková as well as Étienne Delorme, dancer in the company, will present new creations. The bill will be completed by the inflamed work of Bridget Breiner, *In Honour Of*.

In ***Carmina Burana***, Edward Clug will revisit the powerful legacy of Carl Orff's music. His choreography centres on human beings in their most visceral dimension: legacy and longevity.

A wonderful end of season will bring ***Giselle***, a jewel from the classical repertory choreographed by Ivan Cavallari after Marius Petipa.



Photo: Sasha Onyshchenko | Dancer: Rachele Buriassi

Cinderella

September 8 and 9, 2023 (additional shows)
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier – Place des Arts
With Les Grands Ballets Orchestra

From November 9 to 11, 2023
National Center for the Arts, Ottawa

Let the centuries-old magic of the *Cinderella* fairy tale transport you back to childhood. Between her cruel stepmother and vain, selfish stepsisters, Cinderella doesn't have it easy. That is, until her magical fairy godmother appears and changes the course of her life forever.

This is Jayne Smeulders' first full-length ballet, which she choreographed when she was still a principal dancer with the West Australian Ballet in 2011. She chose this classic piece from the repertory, taking inspiration from Brothers Grimm fairy tales, set to the famous 1944 score by Prokofiev. Smeulders places *Cinderella* in a timeless and fantastical world for Les Grands Ballets, made all the more captivating with new sets and sparkling costumes. This sublime ballet en pointe is a delight for the whole family.

Choreography: Jayne Smeulders | Music: Sergueï Prokofiev



Photo: Sasha Onyshchenko | Dancer: Emma Garau Cima

La Dame aux camélias

October 19 to 28, 2023

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier – Place des Arts

With Les Grands Ballets Orchestra

Les Grands Ballets is pleased to welcome back choreographer Peter Quanz to revisit the iconic *La Dame aux camélias* by Alexandre Dumas fils. This novel, which has inspired many an artist in all fields since it was penned in 1848, centres on the relationship between courtesan Marguerite Gauthier and the young bourgeois Armand Duval. Their story is told in love letters, passionate embraces, and ultimately, loss and scorn— ideal material for a romantic ballet!

Through this two-act Neoclassical ballet, Peter Quanz explores emotional vulnerability, inspired by the fragile and ephemeral beauty of camellias. The costumes and set design evoke the glamour and elegance of Parisian salons, while an exclusive orchestral score features compositions by female composers from different epochs.

“What sublime childishness is love!” - Alexandre Dumas fils

Choreography: Peter Quanz | Music research and arrangement: Florian Ziemen



Photo: Sasha Onyshchenko | Dancers: Mai Kono et Angel Vizcaino

The Nutcracker

From December 7 to 10, 2023
Grand Théâtre de Québec

From December 14 to 30, 2023
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier – Place des Arts
With Les Grands Ballets Orchestra

The holidays are here and the whole family has come together for Christmas Eve. As the children open their gifts, the mysterious Doctor Drosselmeyer gives his niece Clara a beautiful nutcracker. So begins a great adventure for Clara, who we are delighted to follow to the Land of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets.

Created in 1964 by Québec choreographer Fernand Nault, this timeless classic has won the hearts of generations of audiences with its skillful blend of fantasy, magic and humour. With dazzling sets, sumptuous costumes and a dreamlike vision of childhood, this ballet features some 100 dancers. A fabulous adventure for the young and the not-so-young!

Choreography: Fernand Nault after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov | Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaïkovski



Photo: Sasha Onyshchenko | Danseuse: Vanesa G.R. Montoya

Cantata

Mixed bill

From March 14 to 16, 2024

Théâtre Misonneuve – Place des Arts

With its visceral, passionate gestural language, *Cantata* evokes rugged Mediterranean beauty and embraces the colours of the South. Instinctive and vital, the dance explores the multiple facets of relationships between men and women, from seduction and passion to quarrels and jealousy. The voices and music of the four on-stage singers of Gruppo Musicale Assurd draw the ten pairs of dancers into the festive working-class atmosphere of Southern Italy, to the sounds of the tambourine and castanets.

This mixed program also features works by up-and-coming choreographers. Company dancer Étienne Delorme presents a dynamic contemporary ballet with tension and sensitivity. Bridget Breiner will address the challenges of the creative process, between devotion and inspiration with *In Honour Of*, a dazzling dance. Jérémy Galdeano and Věra Kvarčáková explore themes of impermanence and reverie in their piece *Nebe* ("sky" or "heaven" in Czech).

Cantata | Choreography: Mauro Bigonzetti | Music: Original and traditional music from Southern Italy with arrangements by Gruppo Musicale Assurd

Creation (name TBC) | Choreography: Étienne Delorme | Music: Charles Bicari, Marie Davidson, Nina Kraviz, Leigh Walker, SOPHIE

In Honour Of | Choreography: Bridget Breiner | Music: Georgs Pelēcis, *In Honour of Henry Purcell*

Nebe | Choreography: Jérémy Galdeano and Věra Kvarčáková | Music: Ezio Bosso, Hania Rani, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovski



Photo: Sasha Onyschenko | Dancer: Célestin Boutin

Carmina Burana

Double bill

From April 13 to 20, 2024

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier – Place des Arts

With Les Grands Ballets Orchestra, choir and soloists

Romania's Edward Clug revisits *Carmina Burana*, the major 20th century work by German composer Carl Orff. Inspired by medieval verse, the piece opens with its famous theme *O Fortuna*. *Carmina Burana* centres on human beings in their most visceral dimension: legacy and longevity. Clug's vivid staging brings to life a wheel of fortune that captivates the dancers. It evokes both the cyclical nature of life and the idea of predestiny. Alongside its implicit theme of torment, *Carmina Burana* also explores the themes of springtime, hope and love as told in medieval writing.

Jeunehomme by Uwe Scholz will complete this double bill. On the notes of Mozart's concerto, the belated German choreographer pays homage to the beauty as well as the melancholy of the great composer's works.

Carmina Burana | Choreography: Edward Clug | Music: Carl Orff

Jeunehomme | Choreography: Uwe Scholz | Music: Piano Concerto No. 9 in E ♭ major, K. 271, known as the *Jeunehomme concerto*



Photo: Sasha Onysichenko | Dancer: Yui Sugawara

Giselle

From May 30 to June 2, 2024
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier – Place des Arts
With Les Grands Ballets Orchestra

Giselle, often described by critics as the ballet par excellence, has never ceased to inspire choreographers and dancers since its creation at the Paris Opera in 1841. Giselle, an innocent peasant girl, is seduced by Duke Albrecht, who, unbeknownst to her, is betrothed to another. Albrecht's deception creates a mental crack in Giselle, who gradually sinks into madness.

This gem of the classic repertory is faithful to the grand Romantic tradition with its gestural symbolism, pointes and white tutus. With its powerful theme of undying love that transcends madness and death, this ballet pits myth against reality with a result that is both captivating and powerful. An evening of eternal beauty that you won't soon forget!

Choreography: Ivan Cavallari based on Marius Petipa
Music: Adolphe-Charles Adam, Arr. Karl Paullsson

Subscription packages: don't miss anything!

The best seats are reserved to subscribers, with discounts going up to 40%. Information on our subscription packages can be found on the company's website www.grandsballets.com or by phone at (514) 849-0269.

Les Grands Ballets on tour

The company is committed to reaching out to new audiences and make art more accessible. Several productions will be presented on tour during the 2023-2024 season:

- Festival de Lanaudière, July 21, 2023
- *Cinderella* at the National Arts Center in Ottawa, from November 9 to 11, 2023
- *The Nutcracker* at Grand Théâtre de Québec, from December 7 to 10 décembre, 2023

More tour dates will be announced during the season.

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Les Grands Ballets are supported by Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Canada Council for the Arts, and Conseil des arts de Montréal. Les Grands Ballets thanks **Clarins**, title sponsor of *Cinderella*.

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About Les Grands Ballets

A creation and production company, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens is devoted to the development of dance in all its forms, building on the discipline of classical ballet.

Under the artistic direction of Ivan Cavallari, some fifty Canadian and international dancers - accompanied by Les Grands Ballets Orchestra - bring the great classics of ballet to the stage, as well as the creations and repertoire of established and emerging contemporary artists.

Located in the heart of Montréal's Quartier des spectacles, Les Grands Ballets is wholly committed to give to as many people as possible access to dance, whether through the Nutcracker Fund for Children, leisure activities in Studios GB or with the National Centre for Dance Therapy (NCDT), which is devoted to greater wellbeing through the benefits of dance.

Through the excellence of its productions and the scope of its cultural and social actions, the company seeks to inspire discovery and conjure emotions, stimulate the imagination, convey a passion for dance and create a lasting impact.

Media Inquiries

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