

CLARINS
PRESENTS

THE SLEEPING
BEAUTY

***Sleeping Beauty* by Prima Ballerina Assoluta Marcia Haydée to hit Les Grands Ballets' stage!**

Montreal, May 3, 2022 – An absolute masterpiece of the classical repertoire, *Sleeping Beauty* returns for the first time in 40 years to Les Grands Ballets' stage, in a version by famous prima ballerina assoluta, **Marcia Haydée**. The sleeping princess and her court will awaken from their centennial sleep to the notes of Tchaikovsky's score, from **June 1 to 5, 2022**, at **Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier**.

A living legend in the world of dance, Marcia Haydée, whose career as a dancer, choreographer and artistic director spans over almost 7 decades, will be in Montreal for the premiere of her celebrated ballet. Created initially for the Stuttgart Ballet, an institution that has marked her career, Haydée bases herself off of the original version of the piece by Marius Petipa and preserves the essence of this classical ballet from the 19th century. However, her version gives a more predominant place to the role of the evil fairy Carabosse than Petipa's original creation. Under Haydée, Carabosse becomes a central and nuanced figure. It is also one of the rare times where this classically feminine role is interpreted by a male dancer!

The story of the slumbering princess goes back several centuries and went through numerous versions before Perrault was inspired by an Italian tale to write what would become the *Sleeping Beauty* that we know today. On the day of her christening, an infant princess receives a curse from the fairy Carabosse, whom no one invited to the fete; the fairy wishes for Aurora to prick her finger and die on the day of her 16th birthday. Fortunately, another fairy succeeds in easing the princess' plight by having her fall instead into a deep sleep of 100 years. Only true love's kiss will awaken her.

'It is for me a dream come true to bring *Sleeping Beauty*, one of the greatest ballet of the classic repertoire, on our stage, particularly in this version by Marcia Haydée. Firstly, because this legendary figure of dance has taught me enormously during the years I had the chance to work with her at Stuttgart Ballet. But also, and mostly, because her version of *Sleeping Beauty* is deeply humane. This ballet brings you a sense of beauty and emotions that inhabit you long after you leave the theater.'

IVAN CAVALLARI, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Choreography: **Marcia Haydée based on Marius Petipa**

Music: **Piotr Ilitch Tchaïkowski**

With Les Grands Ballets Orchestra
conducted by **Jean-Claude Picard**

Duration: 2h43, including an intermission

June 1, 2, 3, 4 at 8 PM

June 4 and 5 at 2 PM

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts

As part of its **Gratitude and Generosity Series**, Les Grands Ballets will invite **200 health care workers** to the dress rehearsal of *Sleeping Beauty*. This program aims to offer human contact to clientele who have been particularly affected by the pandemic by offering them a moment of entertainment and respite in an intimate setting. People living in a situation of economic precariousness, social exclusion, emotional distress and marginalization are top of mind for this initiative.

Les Grands Ballets wishes to thank the **Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec**, the **Canada Council for the arts** and the **Conseil des arts de Montréal** for their support. The company also wishes to thank **Clarins**, title sponsor for *Sleeping Beauty* as well as **Édénne** and **Roche Bobois**, evening sponsors for the show.

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Les Grands Ballets Canadiens

About

For over 60 years, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens has been a creation, production and international performance company devoted to the development of dance in all its forms, while always staying faithful to the spirit of classical ballet. The dancers of Les Grands Ballets, under the artistic direction of Ivan Cavallari, perform choreographies by both long-established and trendsetting creators. Situated at the heart of Montreal's Quartier des spectacles, Les Grands Ballets offers leisure services in its STUDIOS and supports its National Centre for Dance Therapy, which promotes all the benefits that dance can bring. The company's mission is also to ensure accessibility to art for everyone; in that spirit its achievements include the founding of The Nutcracker Fund, which every year enables thousands of children to enjoy a first ballet experience. Les Grands Ballets, recognized for its excellence, creativity and daring, is fully committed to the local community, and is acclaimed on stages around the world.

Media

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