

SEASON 2023/2024 – WORLD PREMIERE

## *LA DAME AUX CAMÉLIAS*

“ ... the past had no more reality and the future no more clouds.”  
**Alexandre Dumas fils**

In the autumn of 2023, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens presents the world premiere presentation of *La Dame aux Camélias* on **October 19, 2023**. This is a creation commissioned by Ivan Cavallari to the talented Canadian choreographer Peter Quanz; who, twelve years after the enchanting choreography of *Rodin / Claudel*, now presents his second full-length ballet for the company. This piece, both neoclassical and subtly tinged with modern romanticism, brilliantly revisits Alexandre Dumas fils' famous epistolary novel, immersing the audience in the tragic destiny of Marguerite Gautier. Dumas fils portrays a courtesan with a tender heart who leads a worldly and decadent life in 19th-century Paris and whose fate takes a turn when she meets Armand Duval, a handsome and sincere young man. Their souls ignite in a consuming and tragic passion, thus defying their time's social conventions and prejudices.

Based on a real passionate story, this work has been adapted many times in theater, opera, and cinema since its publication in 1848. Peter Quanz takes the essence of the novel and crafts a two-act ballet with a narrative unfolding through four scenes: Love, Sacrifice, Rhapsody, and Passing. This provides splendid dramatic and realistic roles for the company's 45 dancers.

Surrounded by a team of renowned Canadian collaborators, including Toronto set designer Michael Gianfrancesco, Montreal lighting designer Marc Parent, and costume designer Anne Armit, Peter Quanz shapes a contemporary adaptation. The musical score, the result of close collaboration with German conductor Florian Ziemer, will resonate with compositions by Carl Maria von Weber and iconic female composers from different eras, such as Lili Boulanger, Fanny Mendelssohn, and Clara Schumann. Les Grands Ballets Orchestra will masterfully bring this music to life.

### **A MUST-SEE EVENT**

October 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 2023, at 8:00 PM, and October 28 at 2:00 PM

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts.

With Les Grands Ballets Orchestra conducted by Dina Gilbert.

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### **ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE**

Act I: 63 minutes

Intermission: 20 minutes

Act II: 43 minutes

Artistic Direction of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens: Ivan Cavallari

Choreography: Peter Quanz

Set Design: Michael Gianfrancesco

Costumes: Anne Armit

Lighting: Marc Parent

Music: Lili Boulanger, D'un soir Triste, D'un matin de printemps; Louise Farrenc, Symphony No. 1 in C Minor, Opus 32: II. Adagio Cantabile; Carl Maria Von Weber, Aufforderung Zum Tanz, Rondo Brilliant, Opus 65, 6 Favouritwaltzer: No. 1-6, J. 143, Polonaise Brillante, Opus 72, Die Drie Pintos – Entre'acte; Fanny Mendelssohn, Notturmo in G Minor; Kaija Saariaho, Ciel D'hiver; Clara Schumann, Romance in A Minor.

Selection, Compilation, and Arrangements: Florian Ziemer

Conductor: Dina Gilbert

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### **AT THE HEART OF THE EXPERIENCE**

As part of the Journées de la culture, on Saturday, September 30, 2023, Peter Quanz will exclusively present selected excerpts from his creation.

Studio-Théâtre des Grands Ballets, 1435 De Bleury Street in Montreal.

From 10:30 AM to 6:00 PM. First come, first served. Free entry.

### **SCHOOL MATINEE**

Friday, October 27, 2023, from 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts

Price: \$25 / students.

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### **ABOUT LES GRANDS BALLETS**

As 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 forty-five 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 the Grands Ballets STUDIOS 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.

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### **PRESS CONTACT**

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