



## *A new Romeo & Juliet for Les Grands Ballets*

**Montreal, March 1, 2022** - The tragedy of the lovers of Verona has endured through the centuries and comes back to the stage of Les Grands Ballets in a new version, signed by Ivan Cavallari. On the famous notes of Prokofiev, the purity of Romeo and Juliet's love comes to life from **March 23 to 27 at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier**. A breathtaking show that will let the company's **47 dancers** shine and showcase its **Orchestra**.

Inspired by Prokofiev's timeless score, Ivan Cavallari centers his neoclassical retelling of this love story on the characters Romeo and Juliet, whose names have been heard through time. Drawing on Italian literature from the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries, Cavallari decorates the Shakespearean story and gives himself a few liberties with this mythical story. The resulting setting is equally uncluttered and full of references to ignite the spectators' imagination, transporting them to a place beyond time where our eternal lovers' plight plays out across the eras.

"Romeo and Juliet is a universal love story that has inspired many generations of artists from Dante to Shakespeare, who brought to this story a worldwide popularity. I like to think that Romeo and Juliet shouldn't be connected to a specific period as I believe love inhabits an ageless space." - **Ivan Cavallari, Artistic Director and Choreographer**

Cavallari preserves the tragic and humorous dimensions of Shakespeare's play while reappropriating the dramaturgy in his own way: he introduces a new character, Countess Guelfi, and develops the storylines of the parents with rich intrigue and dangerous liaisons. All the ingredients of a tragedy are present: innocence, passion, games of power. His work is a portrait of the disorder of the world and the fragility of existence, mirroring Shakespearean themes of death and the quest for redemption.

### ***ROMEO & JULIET***

By Ivan Cavallari

**March 23, 24, 25, 26 at 8 PM**

**March 26 and 27 at 2 PM**

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier  
**With Orchestra**

Tickets are on sale now at [grandsballets.com](https://grandsballets.com) or via (514) 849-0269.

Les Grands Ballets wishes to thank the **Canada Council for the Arts**, the **Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec**, the **Conseil des arts de Montréal** as well as **RBC Royal Bank**, title sponsor of *Romeo & Juliet* and **Touché**, partner of the show, for their precious support.

### *Romeo & Juliet Youth Project*

Les Grands Ballets has always believed in the importance of reaching out to sick, vulnerable and disadvantaged children by giving them access to creativity and the arts. We are pleased to propose a new project that was created for young people and takes our new pandemic reality into account.

In March 2022, **3 educational matinée performances** based on the ballet *Romeo and Juliet* will be presented for children from underprivileged schools and children's foundations, on March 18 and 19, 2022 at Les Grands Ballets' Studio-Théâtre (Édifice Wilder) and on March 25, 2022 at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier.

These exclusive performances will charm and delight close to **2,500 young people** and accompanying adults, in collaboration with *Une école montréalaise pour tous*, a program of the Québec Ministry of Education, and the **Politique de l'enfant de la Ville de Montréal**, as part of its **Diversity and Social Inclusion Fund**. Les Grands Ballets also thank their partners **Desjardins**, **Canada Life** and the **Fondation J.A. DeSève** for their support and to all the partners, foundations and donors who are supporting the program.

With a little help from the event's host, our guests will be able to immerse themselves in this impossible love story. Artistic Director Ivan Cavallari will be on hand with the company's dancers to speak about Les Grands Ballets, the life of a dancer and the excerpts performed.

To learn more about the *Romeo & Juliet* youth project, [click here](#).

### *Fundraising campaign for Romeo & Juliet's costumes*

Les Grands Ballets launched last fall a campaign for the costume of this new ballet. The public is invited to take part in this creation by contributing directly to financing the roughly 140 costumes for this classic, tailored to measure for more than 40 dancers.

#### *Romeo & Juliet's costumes means...*

- A total of approximately 140 costumes
- A deployment of a kilometer's worth of fabric! (1,000 meters of fabric purchased)
- More than \$570,000 invested in the costumes, including \$12,000 and \$10,000 respectively for Juliet's and Romeo's wardrobes
- Working time estimated at close to 8,000 hours (including research and development, cutting and sewing)

### Did You Know?

All of Les Grands Ballets' costumes have been designed in the company's workshop, for over 60 years! They're used for many performances, and regularly have to be adjusted to the heights of new dancers. Their lifespan is about 10 years.

RBC Royal Bank, our generous partner, has pledged to match all donations received for this campaign, up to \$25,000! For any donation of \$250 or more to this campaign, you will be invited to a presentation of the costumes in Les Grands Ballets' studios.

To learn more about this fundraising campaign, [click here](#).

- 30 -

### 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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