

LES GRANDS BALLETS

A YEAR OF EMOTION, PASSION AND CREATIVITY
THE 62ND SEASON OF LES GRANDS BALLETS: AN ODE TO WOMAN



Montreal, February 26, 2018—For his second season as Artistic Director of Les Grands Ballets, Ivan Cavallari unveils a programme centred around the Woman: *“Our programme this year is designed to awaken powerful emotions. Its central theme is Woman: through Her, this season’s repertoire comes to life [...]. And while this season is dedicated to women, it is also meant for all those who are moved by strength, passion, and creativity at its best—husbands, lovers, partners, and all lovers of life!”*

NEW CHOREOGRAPHY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This season’s programme features two original creations: *Lady Chatterley’s Lover* by British choreographer **Cathy Marston**, and the three-part production *Femmes*, showcasing three rising figures of European choreography (Douglas Lee, Marwik Schmitt, and Mehdi Walerski) who each take on the challenge of developing a choreography on the inexhaustible theme of what it is to be a woman. Also, on the programme this season are two mainstays of Romantic ballet: *Swan Lake*, in a guest performance by the **Polish National Ballet**, and *Giselle*, adapted by Ivan Cavallari and performed by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. Of course, the season would not be complete without the beloved annual production of *The Nutcracker*, to warm the hearts of young and old, now a tradition in its 55th consecutive year.

LES GRANDS BALLETS ORCHESTRA AT THE HEART OF THE SEASON

Music also comes into focus: four out of five performances are presented with live music performed by Les Grands Ballets Orchestra and conducted by Dina Gilbert and Jean-Claude Picard. To conclude the season in grand style, the **Soirée des étoiles** is back again this year with a celebration of dance and song inspired by the repertoire of the great Céline Dion.

SENSORY EXPLOSION

***Lady Chatterley's Lover* by Cathy Marston**

Based on the novel by D.H. Lawrence
With Les Grands Ballets de Montréal Orchestra
October 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, and 13, 2018
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts

The season opens with an iconic story of passion and lust. British choreographer Cathy Marston tackles D.H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, depicting the torrid relationship between an aristocratic woman and an ordinary gamekeeper in puritanical England during the industrial age, and in the wake of the First World War. Banned from publication for an extended period, this novel was judged to be scandalous and too powerfully erotic and unsettling. In the end, it helped to revolutionize mentalities and moral standards.

Marston's ability to plumb the depths of human existence and her command of the art of storytelling gives narrative ballet a fresh impetus. She has forged a unique signature, immersing herself in great international literary works to express their essence, charting new territory every time.

ENCHANTING ESCAPE

***The Nutcracker* by Fernand Nault**

Adapted from the original tale by E.T.A. Hoffman
Music by P. I. Tchaikovsky
With Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal Orchestra
December 13 to 30, 2018
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts

As the holiday tradition dictates, every year since 1964, *The Nutcracker* returns to Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts. For its 55th season, a record of longevity for a ballet whose youth springs eternal, this **family Christmas outing par excellence** is sure to delight thousands of spectators again this year, **starting December 13**. Amazement guaranteed!

GUEST COMPANY – POLISH NATIONAL BALLET

MYTHICAL BALLET

Swan Lake

Choreography: Krzysztof Pastor, after Lev Ivanov et Marius Petipa
Libretto: Pawel Chynowski
Music: P. I. Tchaikovsky
With Les Grands Ballets de Montréal Orchestra
February 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, and 28, 2019
Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts

The Polish National Ballet, inspired by the vision of Artistic Director Krzysztof Pastor, digs deep to perform this internationally celebrated and incredibly popular Romantic ballet. A must see for any ballet enthusiast!

Preserving the essence of the original ballet, the plot unfolds in Imperial Russia. The Tsarevich Nicholas is torn between his first love, Alix of Hesse, and his infatuation with a Polish ballerina named Mathilde Kschessinska, an affair that causes a stir at the St. Petersburg court on the eve of his accession to the throne. Straddling reality and fantasy, this spectacular production was an outright triumph at its premiere in Warsaw in 2017.

A TIMELESS CLASSICAL MASTERPIECE

Giselle

Choreography: Jules Perrot and Jean Coralli (1841)

Adaptated by Ivan Cavallari, assisted by Marina Villanueva

Libretto: Théophile Gautier and Jules-Henri Vernoy de Saint-Georges, after Heinrich Heine

With Les Grands Ballets de Montréal Orchestra

April 11, 12, and 13, 2019

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts

A summit of Romantic ballet, *Giselle* never ceased to inspire choreographers and dancers from the time it was first performed by the Paris Opera Ballet, in 1841. For the first time in 20 years, Les Grands Ballets will perform this gem of the classical repertoire, faithfully adapted from the traditional version by Ivan Cavallari, the company's Artistic Director. With its powerful theme of undying love that transcends madness and death, this iconic ballet pits fantasy against reality, and the result is both captivating and overwhelming. It is sure to provide a memorable evening of imperishable beauty.

A MULTIFACETED VISION

Femmes

Choreographers: Douglas Lee, Marwik Schmitt, and Mehdi Walerski

Various musical works

May 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25, 2019

Théâtre Maisonneuve at Place des Arts

Woman—times three! In this three-part programme, three rising figures of dance in Europe—Douglas Lee, of British origin, German-born Markus Schmitt, and French independent choreographer Mehdi Walerski—join their voices in one performance event that revolves around a common theme: Woman. A multifaceted vision and a fascinating dialogue between individual universes. A powerful event!

ET JE T'AIME ENCORE

Soirée des étoiles

May 30 and 31, June 1, 2019

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts

To close the season, once again the **Soirée des étoiles** is sure to be an unforgettable evening. The finest of international ballet from the most prestigious dance companies in the world will join

forces with Les Grands Ballets. Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal will perform songs by the great Céline Dion during musical interludes. Stunning *pas de deux* selected from the classical and neoclassical repertoires and moments of grace fill the programme of this exhilarating evening that will sparkle like a glass of champagne!

PHILANTHROPY

To date, **Les Grands Ballets' Nutcracker Fund for Children** has provided the opportunity for more than 32,350 sick and less advantaged children to participate in educational workshops and attend a performance of *The Nutcracker* free of charge. Our company pursues its mission to democratize ballet, which is made possible primarily through fundraising events.

The **Annual Benefit Gala**, one of Montreal's most highly anticipated fundraising events, will be held on May 13, 2017.

More than 500 donors will attend the annual **Benefit Brunch** on December 16 at Place des Arts, while the **Jeunes Gouverneurs**, a committee made up of young professionals whose mission is to attract a new generation to philanthropy, will host several events providing opportunities to network in a festive setting, all season long.

The Nutcracker Market

The 8th edition of the Nutcracker Market, in which 10% of exhibitors' proceeds will go to Les Grands Ballets' Nutcracker Fund for Children, will take place from November 30 to December 10, 2018 at the Palais des congrès de Montréal.

The Je me pointe! Program

To enable young people aged 30 and under to attend many exceptional shows at a reduced rate, Les Grands Ballets offers the Je me pointe! Card for the low price of \$15. With this card, young audiences benefit from a 40% discount on selected performances. Les Grands Ballets also offer a 40% discount on regular fare tickets for children aged 12 and under.

Season packages : don't miss out !

The best seats are reserved for audience members with subscriptions, with rebates that can total up to 50%. For information on package deals, call 514-849-269 or visit the Grands Ballets website at www.grandsballets.com where you can also get complete information and enjoy reading about upcoming performances, the company, and its dancers.

Partners

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal gratefully acknowledges the support of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Conseil des arts de Montréal.

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