



PHOTO: SASHA ONYSHCHENKO | DANCER: RACHELE BURASSI

***CINDERELLA*,** **an iconic ballet reinvented for Les Grands Ballets**

Montreal, May 9, 2023 – Les Grands Ballets is proud to present *Cinderella* from May 31 to June 4, 2023, with additional performances on September 8 and 9 at Place des Arts. This ballet choreographed by the Australian Jayne Smeulders is a wonderful show for the whole family that brings the audience in a fantastic and timeless universe, thanks to costumes and sets conceived specifically for the company.

Between her cruel stepmother and two selfish and vain stepsisters, poor Cinderella has a hard life. And yet: thanks to the divine Fairy Godmother, her fate will change forever. *Cinderella* is Jayne Smeulders' first full-length ballet, choreographed in 2011 when she was a Principal Dancer with the West Australian Ballet. She decided to tackle this classical piece from the repertoire, inspired by the Brothers Grimm's tale.

Created for Les Grands Ballets, a magnificent staging with more than 150 shimmering costumes and new sets brings further magic to the show. Artistic director Ivan Cavallari has called upon the talents of Marie-Chantale Vaillancourt to design the costumes in a timeless fashion, which were made in Montreal, in the company's Costumes Workshop.

Several roles have also been created specifically for Les Grands Ballets' dancers, enriching the set of fantasy characters: unicorns, nymphs and inseparable birds appear in the enchanted garden scenes.

The nine shows in Place des Arts will be accompanied by Les Grands Ballets Orchestra, conducted by Dina Gilbert, bringing Prokofiev's score to life. The score is used in its entirety, guiding the classical ballet choreography flawlessly, and will be completed by an extract of the "Classical Symphony" by the same composer.

This beautiful ballet on pointe is a delight for the whole family. Young people under 17 years old benefit from a -40% discount, a great opportunity to make them discover ballet!

SHARE THE MAGIC OF *CINDERELLA*

Les Grands Ballets is committed to giving back to the community. A private performance of *Cinderella* will be presented on June 2 for eight hundred people invited free of charge. Among them, 600 to 700 people with special needs will be invited by the National Center for Dance Therapy to a laid-back performance. Furthermore, thanks to the "Gratitude and Generosity" series, a hundred children and teens who have been victims of violence, coming from the Marie-Vincent Foundation and various youth centers, are invited to take part in a much-needed moment of comfort and serenity. They will also be able to meet dancers.

Les Grands Ballets thanks its partners:

- Gratitude and Generosity: **Fondation J.A. De Sève**
- Laid-back performance: **Ville de Montréal**

CINDERELLA

FROM MAY 31 TO JUNE 4, 2023

Salle Wilfrid Pelletier, Place des Arts

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES ON SEPTEMBER 8&9,
2023

With Les Grands Ballets Orchestra conducted by Dina Gilbert

FROM NOVEMBER 9 TO 11, 2023

National Arts Center, Ottawa

With the NAC Orchestra

Choreography: Jayne Smeulders

Music: Sergueï Prokofiev, *Cinderella* and *Symphony No.*

1 in D Major, Op. 25 "Classical": I. Allegro (excerpt)

Conductor: Dina Gilbert

Costumes: Marie-Chantale Vaillancourt

Sets: Simon Guilbault

Lighting: Marc Parent

First cast

Cinderella: Rachele Buriassi

Isabella (stepsister): Vanesa G.R. Montoya

Anastasia (stepsister): Anya Nesvitaylo

Mariella (stepmother): Myriam Simon

Edouard (father): Felixovich Morante

Mother and Fairy Godmother: Maude Sabourin

Prince Charming: Roddy Doble

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens would like to thank **Clarins**, title sponsor, the **Azrieli Foundation**, creation partner, and **Dentons**, evening sponsor on June 2. Les Grands Ballets is supported by **Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec**, **Canada Council for the Arts**, and **Conseil des arts de Montréal**.

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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 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.

Press inquiries

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