

Karen Kain  
Artistic Director

Media Release

#22/58

## Elena Lobsanova and Noah Long Compete in The Eighth International Competition for The Erik Bruhn Prize March 18, 2009

January 26, 2009... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada, today announced that Corps de Ballet members **Elena Lobsanova** and **Noah Long** will represent the company at The Eighth International Competition for The Erik Bruhn Prize on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 7:30 pm at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

Hosts for the evening will be Principal Dancers **Chan Hon Goh** and **Aleksandar Antonijevic**.

New this year is a Choreographic Prize. For the first time, competing couples will perform contemporary works specifically commissioned for this occasion by each of the participating companies. A \$2,000 cash prize will be awarded to one choreographer for best new contemporary choreography as determined by the panel of judges.

Competitors from **Royal Danish Ballet**, **American Ballet Theatre**, **San Francisco Ballet** and **Stuttgart Ballet** will be announced shortly along with the choreographers competing for the Choreographic Prize.

Judging the competition are Artistic Directors **Karen Kain**, **Kevin McKenzie** (American Ballet Theatre), **Nikolaj Hübbe** (Royal Danish Ballet), **Helgi Tomasson** (San Francisco Ballet) and Artistic Associate **Tamas Detrich** (Stuttgart Ballet).

During the evening, the company will perform excerpts from Sabrina Matthews' DEXTRIS which made its world premiere as part of the National Ballet's Winter Season mixed programme, *Innovation*.

One of the most acclaimed and revered male dancers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, **Erik Bruhn** personified the *danseur noble* tradition in all its classical, regal glory. His affiliation with The National Ballet of Canada was a lengthy and fruitful one, culminating in his Artistic Directorship of the company from 1983 until his untimely death in 1986. Mr. Bruhn was always keenly interested in the development of younger dancers and in a codicil to his will, Mr. Bruhn left part of his estate for the establishment of The Erik Bruhn Prize, which was to be awarded to one male and one female dancer who "reflect such technical ability, artistic achievement and dedication as I endeavoured to bring to dance."

Since it began in 1988, the competition has showcased the talents of many of the finest young dancers from the companies with whom Mr. Bruhn was most closely associated: Royal Danish Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, The Royal Ballet and The National Ballet of Canada. As The Royal Ballet is unable to compete this year, San Francisco Ballet and Stuttgart Ballet, who have both competed in past years, have been invited to send two

On Stage  
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young dancers to the competition. Competitors for the prize must be between 18 and 23 years old and are selected by the Artistic Directors of their respective companies. Each pair performs in a classical pas de deux and variation and in a contemporary pas de deux or solo work.

Each participant receives a medal and the winners each receive a prize of \$7,500 and a sculpture by Canadian artist **Jack Culiner** generously donated by Artcast. The winner of the Choreographic Prize will also receive a Jack Culiner sculpture in addition to the \$2,000 cash prize.

Many of the past winners have gone on to become Principal Dancers, enjoying international careers, making the competition a glimpse of the future stars of the ballet world in one exhilarating evening of dance.

[Full list of past winners of The Erik Bruhn Prize >](#)

[Full biography of Elena Lobsanova >](#)

[Full biography of Noah Long >](#)

The National Ballet of Canada's Winter Season will open in Toronto at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts with *Innovation*, a programme of three world premieres by three young Canadian choreographers **Peter Quanz**, **Sabrina Matthews** and **Crystal Pite**, on stage March 4 – 8, 2009 and continues with John Cranko's classic retelling of *Romeo and Juliet* March 11 – 22, 2009.

Tickets:  
Prices range from \$20 - \$200.

Discount rates are available for groups of 10 people or more. Rush seats are available on the day of performance in person at the box office for \$30. DanceBreak members aged 16 to 29 can purchase \$20 tickets on the day of the performance, depending on availability. Visit [DanceBreak.ca](http://DanceBreak.ca).

Venue:  
Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen Street West, Toronto.

Box Office:  
The box office is located at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts (145 Queen Street West) or call 416 (toll free 1 866) 345 9595. Tickets can also be purchased online at [national.ballet.ca](http://national.ballet.ca).

Website: [national.ballet.ca](http://national.ballet.ca).

The 2008/09 season is presented by CTV and The Globe and Mail.

The Eighth International Competition for The Erik Bruhn Prize is presented by John & Claudine Bailey.

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Supporting Partner: Deloitte

Official Hotel of The National Ballet of Canada: Fairmont Royal York

Elena Lobsanova is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Sandra Faire and Ivan Fecan.

*IN COLOUR* by Peter Quanz is a gift from THE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE, THE NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA.

World Premiere by Crystal Pite is generously supported by Gail Hutchison.

The National Ballet of Canada gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the Canada Council for the Arts; the Ontario Arts Council; the City of Toronto through the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Department; The Government of Canada through the Honourable James Moore, Minister, the Department of Canadian Heritage; the Government of Ontario; the Ontario Arts Foundation; the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

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