

September 25, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Canada's Ballet Jörgen continues to grow free programming across Toronto led by record setting week of performances and outreach.

Toronto: Canada's Ballet Jörgen will deliver 16 free performances across Toronto this week including participation in Nuit Blanche and the Toronto International Dance Festival.

"We believe every Canadian no matter their financial circumstances should have affordable access to high-quality dance. For 30 years we at Canada's Ballet Jörgen have lived this vision. As Ontario's second largest dance company we are focused on ensuring everyone in the Province can access the arts." – Artistic Director Bengt Jörgen

This week's free programming began today with *Ballet Express*, in partnership with **George Brown College**. *Ballet Express* is an hour-long program featuring excerpts from *Coppélia: A Comedy with Love* along with some of CBJ's most popular contemporary repertoire. Performances take place across three of George Brown College's campuses and are free to the public.

Ballet Express

- Waterfront Campus: September 25 at 12:00pm
- James Campus: September 26 at 12:00pm
- Casa Loma Campus: September 27 at 12pm

Friday and Saturday, CBJ will take its **Ballet 101** program into five libraries in Toronto. Ballet 101 is a free, interactive education program designed especially for children and youth that introduces the audience to dance through a combination of performance and participation. The program provides opportunities to see high-quality professional dance presentations while learning about ballet as a storytelling medium. Saturday's performances are made possible through **Ontario Culture Days**.

Ballet 101

- Bendale Branch Public Library, Scarborough: September 28 at 10:00am
- Albert Campbell Public Library, Scarborough: September 28 at 1:00pm
- Kennedy Eglinton Public Library, Scarborough: September 28 at 4:00pm
- McGregor Park Public Library, Scarborough: September 29 at 2:00pm
- Deer Park Public Library, Toronto: September 29 at 2:00pm

Saturday night, CBJ is partnering with **401 Richmond** to celebrate **Nuit Blanche** with eight performances in the 401 Richmond atrium. Performances will take place every half hour beginning at 7:00pm.

There are two other opportunities to see the company perform this week. On Thursday, September 27 at 6:30pm the company will perform its **Ballet in the Studio Program** at its George Brown College Casa Loma studios. BITS will offer a sneak peak into this season's full-length ballet *Coppélia: A Comedy with Love* along with popular CBJ contemporary repertoire. Tickets are \$15 to \$20 and can be purchased [HERE](#). On Sunday, September 30 the company will participate in the **5th Toronto International Dance Festival** at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto. More information can be found [HERE](#).

In addition to performances, the company will hold auditions and rehearsals across Ontario for its free **Nutcracker Local Participant Program**. Canada's Ballet Jörgen's Local Participants Program

provides a unique opportunity for aspiring young dancers to perform onstage with the professional company. In addition to the auditions, rehearsals will be held with participants in Peterborough, Guelph, Brantford, Hamilton and Toronto.

Nutcracker Local Participant Program Auditions

- North Bay: September 29 at 9:00am
- London: September 29 at 9:15am
- Toronto: September 30 at 3:00pm
- Catharines: September 30 at 10:15am

More information on auditions can be found [HERE](#).

The week's programming is made possible by George Brown College, Toronto Arts Council, The Ontario Arts Council, The Charles H. Ivey Foundation and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

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Ongoing support is provided by the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council and Toronto Arts Council.

About Canada's Ballet Jörgen

Canada's Ballet Jörgen is one of Canada's largest dance companies and the country's leading touring company. Currently celebrating its 31st season, Canada's Ballet Jörgen enriches our lives by bringing professional ballet to communities - large and small, urban and rural - across Canada. Known for the warmth and beauty of its productions, CBJ reaches every province, delivering more than 1,500 performances, ballet classes and community engagement events involving over 60,000 participants annually. To date, CBJ has reached 253 different communities in Canada and 60 in the US.

The company specializes in reaching underserved communities, and effectively reaches households with income of under \$35,000. Canada's Ballet Jörgen is the 2011 winner of The National Arts Centre Award for Distinguished Contribution to Touring – the first Ontario Performing Arts Organization to win this award.

canadasballetjorgen.ca

For more information, photos, and/or to request an interview, contact:
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