



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 14, 2010

the
big night out is back!

Sony Centre For The Performing Arts Announces its 50th Anniversary Season

First Performance October 1, 2010

(TORONTO, ON)...**Dan Brambilla**, CEO of the Sony Centre For The Performing Arts, proudly announced details of the 2010-2011 season today. Following two years of renovations and restorations the Sony Centre For The Performing Arts will re-open its doors on **Friday, October 1, 2010**, exactly fifty years to the date of the first opening night performance, October 1, 1960.

“As we embark on our 50th Anniversary Season, the Sony Centre For The Performing Arts is poised to play a central role in the cultural experience of Torontonians. Our 2010-2011 season reflects the face of Toronto in the 21st century which is wonderfully different from when the theatre first opened in 1960. Today’s Toronto is the only city of its kind in the world – home to hundreds of different cultures and spoken languages. Our unique brand therefore is to be Toronto’s theatre for the people – all people – and our programming is chosen with a view to entertain every segment of the city’s diverse population,” said **Brambilla**. “Our season is a compendium of the international stars of dance, theatre, music and popular culture that resonate with audiences today.”

The 50th Anniversary Season opens with **iD**, running from **October 1 to 9**, a spectacle that weaves together hip hop, breakdance, BMX bikes and ten circus disciplines including tumblers, acrobats, jugglers and contortionists, to create a breathtaking explosion of exhilarating music, dance and video. **iD** is co-created by **Jeannot Painchaud**, founder and artistic director of Montreal’s acclaimed **Cirque Éloize**, and hip-hop choreographer **Mourad Merzouki**.

As previously announced, **Robert Lepage’s Eonnagata**, created and performed by **Robert Lepage**, internationally acclaimed French dancer **Sylvie Guillem** and award-winning British choreographer **Russell Maliphant**, makes its Toronto premiere on **November 18 and 19**. This remarkable production from London’s Sadler’s Wells first premiered in 2009 and has since toured France, Spain and Germany. **Eonnagata** melds dance and theatre to probe the mystery of gender and human nature.

The spectacular season continues with **The Merchants of Bollywood**, a theatrical song and dance extravaganza featuring a cast of 40 performers from the Film City of Mumbai, 3,800 lavish costumes and 2,000 pieces of jewellery worth in excess of one million dollars. Running **November 4 to 14**, **The Merchants of Bollywood** showcases all the glitz, glamour, song, dance and romance that defines “Bollywood”.

SONY CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY combines state-of-the-art videos and art stills from SQUARE ENIX's world-renowned ***Final Fantasy*** video game series with an exhilarating live performance by the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony of the award-winning music by Japanese video game composer **Nobuo Uematsu**. This Sony Centre concert on **November 27**, will feature a special meet and greet with **Uematsu**, and new music titles from the video game.

The Sony Centre continues its holiday tradition with ***Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical***, offering a magical event for the entire family to enjoy from **December 17 to January 2**. The classic holiday tale comes to life on stage, featuring the hit songs "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome Christmas" from the original animated television production. The Grinch discovers there's more to Christmas than he bargained for in this heartwarming holiday musical. Magnificent sets and costumes inspired by Dr. Seuss' original illustrations transport audiences to the whimsical world of Whoville. This critically-acclaimed production was originally created by 3-time Tony Award-winning director Jack O'Brien and has played in Los Angeles and Chicago. ***Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical*** has broken box office attendance records for two consecutive years on Broadway during its limited holiday engagements at the St. James (2007) and Hilton (2006) theaters in New York City.

In their first Toronto appearance since 1989, the iconic **Mariinsky (formerly the Kirov) Ballet** returns to the Sony Centre on **March 1 to 6** to perform their signature ballet, ***Swan Lake***: the most popular ballet ever created. Celebrated for their impeccable style and flawless technique, the **Mariinsky (Kirov) Ballet** under artistic director Valery Gergiev shines in a unique production of this beautiful and beloved story. ***Swan Lake***, set to Tchaikovsky's classic score played by a live orchestra, is brought vividly to life by the exceptional artistry of a company renowned – since 1783 – for classical purity and grace.

Breakin' Convention, the critically acclaimed International Festival of Hip Hop Dance Theatre, has become a major happening in the hip hop dance calendar since it first began in 2004 at London's most prestigious dance house, Sadler's Wells Theatre. The festival presents crews from every street corner of the globe, and has included highly influential artists like the Electric Boogaloos, Korean B-Boy champions Project Soul and Canada's own Rubberbandance Group. The artistic director and host of ***Breakin' Convention*** is pioneering hip hop theatre artist Jonzi D. The Sony Centre will host Canada's first ***Breakin' Convention*** on **May 7, 2011**.

Musical Performances

The 2010-2011 season boasts a full spectrum of musical offerings beginning on **October 21** with the incomparable ***Liza Minnelli*** in concert with her quartet, accompanied by Billy Stritch and the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony.

The holiday season celebrations kick-off on **November 24** with the extraordinary step-dancing, fiddle-playing, song-singing Leahy family performing an array of Christmas music from sacred hymns to fiery Celtic tunes and best-loved carols in ***A Leahy Family Christmas***. **The Canadian Tenors**, four charismatic singers who have been thrilling millions of music lovers with their eclectic blend of classical and contemporary pop since 2007, make their Sony Centre debut **December 2** performing ***The Canadian Tenors & Friends: A Christmas To Remember***.

Kodo Drummers of Japan combine the power, precision and excitement of traditional Japanese drumming with fresh dance, song and instrumental interpretations to create a dazzling display of astounding speed, dexterity, and muscular endurance. They will perform at the Sony Centre on **March 11**.

Hailed by critics and fans alike as the most authentic and endearing Beatles tribute in the world, **"1964"...The Tribute** make their Sony Centre debut on **March 24** recreating an early 60's live Beatles concert complete with period instruments, clothing, hairstyles, and onstage banter with astounding accuracy.

International Dance Stars

Celebrating the wealth and diversity of dance around the globe, the 2010-2011 season showcases outstanding dance artists from China, Poland, Russia, Germany, the Philippines and North America. The acclaimed Beijing Friendship Dance Company, one of the oldest performance troupes in China, blends classical ballet and traditional Chinese dance in its lavish full-length dance drama ***Dream of the Red Chamber*** on **October 12 and 13**. On **November 1**, the ***Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company*** celebrates the sumptuous music and energetic dance traditions of the Philippines inspired by the country's diverse indigenous, Chinese, Spanish and Islamic influences. Founded in 1957, **Bayanihan** was the first Filipino group to perform on Broadway and in Russia, as well as the first non-American company to dance at New York's Lincoln Center. ***Mazowsze – Music and Dance of Poland*** returns to the Sony Centre on **November 20** with their glorious authentic costumes, stirring Polish folk music, and dazzling choreographic display. Following triumphs in New York, Paris, Cannes, Panama, Bucharest and Moscow, ***Stars of the 21st Century*** assembles the world's most accomplished classical and contemporary dance stars for this spectacular international dance gala on **October 14**. Artists from the **American Ballet Theater, Berlin Opera Ballet, Mariinsky (Kirov) Ballet, The Royal Ballet and The National Ballet of Canada** perform an exciting and diverse program ranging from the great classics of the 19th century to the best contemporary dance of the 21st century.

Family Fun

Franklin the Turtle returns to the stage on **October 23** with a brand new live musical theatre production, ***Franklin and the Adventures of the Noble Knights***. This action-packed live show features original songs, spectacular costumes, and thrilling effects including a fire-breathing dragon, two riddle-loving gargoyles, and a wild-winged beast.

On **December 4**, **Caillou** – friend to millions of preschoolers worldwide – takes a fun romp through a winter wonderland in ***Caillou's Greatest Skate of All***. Inspired by some of Canada's most iconic pastimes including hockey and ice skating, this charming live theatre production is filled with original sing-a-long songs, thrilling rollerblade displays and lots of audience participation.

The Sony Centre presents two groundbreaking animated productions that introduce children of all ages to the world's great classical music performed live by the **Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony**.

Barbie™ at the Symphony, which will be presented **November 26 and 27**, combines the best Barbie™ "Princess" movies with the world's most loved classical music scores. This series of CGI animated films features Barbie™ singing and dancing to ballet sequences choreographed by Peter Martins of the renowned New York City Ballet. Released in over 30 languages, these popular films have introduced millions of children to ballets such as *The Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake* and the timeless music to which they are set.

Warner Bros. presents Bugs Bunny at the Symphony conducted by George Daugherty is a spectacular fusion of classic Warner Bros. cartoons projected on the big screen, accompanied by their exhilarating original Carl Stalling scores played LIVE by the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony on **April 9**. Celebrating 20 years of Bugs Bunny on the concert stage, this brand new anniversary concert of **Looney Tunes** and live orchestra includes the show-stopping cartoons "What's Opera,

Doc?" and "The Rabbit of Seville" – two Looney Tunes classics that top virtually every published list of "The World's Funniest Cartoons" anywhere – and "Shake Your Powderpuff", the first-ever Looney Tune which parodied the symphony orchestra world and laid the ground work for decades of classical music spoofs to come. The concert also features classics like Tweety and Sylvester's "**Tweet and Lovely**" and Pepe Le Pew in "**A Scent of The Matterhorn**", plus special guests Daffy Duck, Elmer Fudd, **Tom and Jerry, Porky Pig, The Flintstones, The Jetsons, and Scooby-Doo.**

2010-2011 season schedule at a glance

iD: October 1 at 6:30 pm, October 2, 7, 8, 9, 2010 at 8 pm and October 3, 2010 at 2 pm

Dream of the Red Chamber: October 12 and 13, 2010 at 8 pm

Stars of the 21st Century: October 14, 2010 at 8 pm

Liza Minnelli: October 21, 2010 at 8 pm

Franklin and the Adventures of the Noble Knights: October 23, 2010 at 1 pm

Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company: November 1, 2010 at 8 pm

The Merchants of Bollywood: November 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 2010 at 8 pm and November 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 2010 at 2 pm

Eonnagata: November 18 and 19, 2010 at 8 pm

Mazowsze- Music and Dance of Poland: November 20, 2010 at 8 pm

A Leahy Family Christmas: November 24, 2010 at 7:30 pm

Barbie™ at the Symphony: November 26, 2010 at 7 pm and November 27, 2010 at 1 pm

Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY: November 27, 2010 at 8 pm

The Canadian Tenors & Friends: A Christmas To Remember: December 2, 2010 at 8 pm

Caillou's Greatest Skate of All: December 4, 2010 at 1 pm

Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical: December 17, 2010 to January 2, 2011

Mariinsky (Kirov) Ballet Swan Lake: March 1 to 5, 2011 at 8 pm and March 5, 6, 2011 at 2 pm

Kodo Drummers of Japan: March 11, 2011 at 8 pm

"1964"...The Tribute: March 24, 2011 at 8 pm

Warner Bros. presents Bugs Bunny at the Symphony: April 9, 2011 at 2 pm and 7 pm

Breakin' Convention: May 7, 2011 at 8 pm

Single tickets and packages go on sale **Saturday, April 17th at 9 am**, and may be purchased by calling **416-872-2262** or on-line at www.sonycentre.ca. Single ticket prices start at \$15, packages start at \$80. Patrons between the ages of 19 and 30 can join the Sony Centre's Under-30 Rush Club and purchase tickets for \$15. Sony Package benefits include priority seating, 20% savings off single ticket prices, flexible ticket exchange, and discounts to restaurants and retailers. New this year, package purchasers who order by June 30, 2010 can take advantage of a **convenient no-fee three-installment payment option**.

For more information visit www.sonycentre.ca . For Group Sales call 416-393-7463 or 1-866-737-0805, or visit www.sonycentre.ca/groups .

Sony Centre For The Performing Arts is currently in the first phase of its three-part renovation which focuses on the interior of the venue and will be completed in September 2010. Phase Two begins in 2011 with the construction of the new permanent backstage facilities and the L Tower, a 57-story residential tower designed by Daniel Libeskind. Phase Three encompasses the external cityscape design and public plaza and is scheduled to begin upon the tower's completion.

The **Sony Centre For The Performing Arts** thanks its amazing sponsors:

2010-2011 Sony Centre Season Built by: **LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT WAREHOUSE**

Innovation Sponsors: **INTROTEL** and **MITEL**

SONY CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Preferred Hotel: ONE KING WEST HOTEL & RESIDENCE

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Download the 2010-2011 season media kit and high-resolution photos at:

www.sonycentre.ca/media



iD

Sony Centre 50th Anniversary Premiere Engagement!

October 1st 6:30 pm Opening Night Celebration and Performance

October 2, 7, 8, 9, 2010 at 8 pm

October 3, 2010 at 2 pm

Tickets start at \$35

"A spectacle for all ages that transcends generational and geographical boundaries." *The Chosun Journal, South Korea*

Playful, energetic and decidedly urban, ***iD*** weaves together hip hop, breakdance and ten circus disciplines to create a spectacular explosion of exhilarating music, dance and video.

iD is set in the heart of a futuristic city, where comic books, sci-fi movies and the rich graffiti universe intersect. In the middle of this surreal megalopolis exists a public space where people seek refuge and escape anonymity, where they converge to express their individuality and to affirm their identity. It's a place for encounters, a site of passage, a 'hood where clans confront one another, where friendships are woven, where love is created and dissolved.

iD is co-created by Jeannot Painchaud, founder and artistic director of Montreal's acclaimed *Cirque Éloize*, and hip-hop choreographer Mourad Merzouki. Since it began in 1993, *Cirque Éloize* has enjoyed overwhelming success marked by rave reviews, numerous awards, and sold-out engagements around the world. The company has toured extensively to the world's most prestigious festivals and theatres including: Edinburgh International Festival, the Hollywood Bowl (Los Angeles), Piccolo Teatro (Milan), Les Folies Bergère (Paris), Bunkamura Orchard Hall (Tokyo), Israel Festival Jerusalem, Hong Kong Festival, Sadler's Wells (London), Sydney Opera House, Barbican Theatre (London), Beiteddine Festival (Beirut), Chekhov International Theatre Festival (Moscow), International Cervantino Festival (Guanajuato).

The Sony Centre For The Performing Arts will re-open on Friday, October 1st, 2010 following two years of renovations and restorations. Single tickets and packages are on sale Saturday, April 17th at 9 am. To order call **416-872-2262** or go on-line at **www.sonycentre.ca**.

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Dream of the Red Chamber

October 12 and 13, 2010 at 8 pm

Tickets start at \$28

“A seamless fusion of ballet, modern dance and traditional Chinese dances.” *Toronto Star*

Dream of the Red Chamber is a lavish full-length dance drama that fluidly blends both classical ballet and traditional Chinese dance performed by the acclaimed Beijing Friendship Dance Company against a backdrop of riotous colour. The production is directed and choreographed by the award-winning Zhao Ming with a score by Su Cong, the Academy Award-winning composer of ***The Last Emperor***.

Based on one of the four greatest works in the canon of Chinese classical literature, the ballet tells the tragic story of a passionate love triangle that devastates an ancient noble family. As in the novel, ***Dream of the Red Chamber*** reflects the era's social reality and societal changes as it follows the descent of a typical feudal family. The novel is also considered an important historical and archival treasure in the research of China's ancient official title system, philosophy, culture and social customs.

Founded in 1937, The Beijing Friendship Dance Company is one of the oldest performance troupes in China. For over half a century's time, The Beijing Friendship Dance Company has created many Chinese music and dance masterpieces such as "The Long March Chorus" and "Farewell My Concubine."

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Stars of the 21st Century: A Koffler Centre of the Arts Gala

A Solomon Tencer Production

October 14, 2010 at 8 pm

Tickets start at \$40

For one spectacular night these stars assemble for the most prestigious ballet gala in the world. Following triumphs in New York, Paris, Cannes, Panama, Bucharest and Moscow, the international superstars of classical and contemporary dance will assemble for this spectacular gala. ***Stars of the 21st Century*** showcases world renowned artists from the *Bolshoi Ballet*, *American Ballet Theatre*, *Berlin Opera Ballet*, *Kirov Ballet*, *London's Royal Ballet* and *The National Ballet of Canada*. These supremely talented dance superstars will perform an exciting and diverse program ranging from the great classics of the 19th century to the best contemporary dance of the 21st century.

Under the leadership of artistic producers Nadia Veselova-Tencer and Solomon Tencer, this exquisite gala of captivating dance performances has become an international event enthralling sold-out audiences and garnering rave reviews worldwide. In 1999, ***Stars of the 21st Century*** was invited to close the millennium at the Cannes Film Festival's *Palais des Festivals de Cannes* and open the millennium in 2000 at the Lincoln Centre's *Millennium International Ballet Gala*.

Koffler Centre of the Arts, www.kofflerarts.org, is a Toronto-based Jewish arts and cultural institution with a broad mandate to serve all Canadians through a global lens. The Koffler's unique mix examines the arts across different disciplines and cultures in a way that strengthens identity while encouraging an appreciation of difference. ***Stars of the 21st Century***, a fundraising Gala for the Koffler, launches their capital campaign to realize a new 40,000 square foot, architecturally innovative Koffler Centre of the Arts, anticipated to open in 2014. More information at <http://tomorrowcampaign.com>

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Liza Minnelli

October 21, 2010 at 8pm

Tickets start at \$39

The legendary ***Liza Minnelli*** performs sensational American Standards, as only she can, in a glamorous and intimate concert accompanied by her quartet and the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, and her longtime pianist-arranger Billy Stritch.

Daughter of actress Judy Garland and film director Vincente Minnelli, ***Liza Minnelli*** became known as a song-and-dance trouper of stage and screen. She has garnered many honours and awards through her illustrious career including four Tony Awards, an Oscar for her portrayal of Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, an Emmy for her TV special *Liza With a 'Z'*, two Golden Globes and a Grammy Legend Award for her outstanding contribution and influence in the recording field.

In 1997, she took over from an ailing Julie Andrews in the Broadway production of *Victoria/Victoria* and two years later returned to the stage to pay tribute to her father in a show called *Minnelli on Minnelli* at New York's Palace Theater.

In 2008 Ms. Minnelli returned to Broadway with *Liza's at the Palace*...for which she won her fourth Tony Award. The cast recording was nominated for a Grammy Award. She recreated the show at the MGM Grand where her performance was filmed for a public television special and a DVD. She continues her extraordinary music career with ongoing concert tours in the U.S. and Europe.

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Franklin and the Adventures of the Noble Knights

October 23, 2010 at 1pm

Tickets start at \$22

After taking Europe by storm, ***Franklin and the Adventures of the Noble Knights***, a brand new live musical theatre production by Koba Entertainment, will make its Toronto debut this fall. A compelling story about acceptance, compassion and friendship, ***Franklin and the Adventures of the Noble Knights***, is the most heroic expedition that Franklin and his friends have ever embarked on!

Franklin and his pals Bear, Snail, Beaver, Fox and Rabbit will face their greatest challenge when they try to recover the lost “Golden Necklace” of Princess Harriet. Along the way, they must reveal their noble skills and prove themselves worthy of the ultimate title: Knighthood. On their courageous crusade, the gang must triumph over many obstacles. With teamwork and humility, Franklin and his pals ultimately prevail against all odds.

This action-packed live show features original songs, and spectacular costumes and effects including a fire-breathing dragon, two riddle-loving gargoyles, and a wild-winged beast!

In ***Franklin and the Adventures of the Noble Knights***, Franklin and his pals reassure children that it’s okay to feel a myriad of ever-changing emotions, and encourage young people to solve problems on their own.

About Franklin Live! On Stage

Franklin and the Adventures of the Noble Knights boasts a team of award winning creators – Patti Caplette (director/co-writer/choreographer), Lawrence Mirkin (co-writer), Rebecca Hodgson (set designer) and Florence K (composer/lyricist), and is inspired by the literary creation of Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark.

Conceived 25 years ago, Franklin the turtle is enjoyed by children and parents in 30 countries and in 24 languages. There are now more than 20 million Franklin books in print around the world and a television series as seen on TF1 in France, Treehouse TV in Canada and Nick Jr. Digital in the U.S.

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Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company

November 1, 2010 at 8 pm

Tickets start at \$47

The ***Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company*** celebrates the sumptuous, diverse music and dance traditions of the Philippines. Demonstrating all the charm and grace of the nation of 7,000 islands, ***Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company*** presents a taste of one of the richest music and dance traditions in the world. With brightly costumed and energetic performances inspired by the Philippines' diverse indigenous, Chinese, Spanish and Islamic influences, the 45 performers of ***Bayanihan*** have delighted audiences and critics around the world for more than 43 years.

Founded in 1957, ***Bayanihan*** was the first Filipino group to perform on Broadway and in Russia, as well as the first non-American company to dance at New York's Lincoln Center. The company has appeared in international events and festivals in 55 countries, and the Philippine government recognized its role as an international ambassador by naming ***Bayanihan*** the nation's official dance company in 2000.

Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company takes its name from an ancient Filipino tradition that signifies working together for the common good. The company was founded in 1957 by Dr. Helena Z. Benitez. Its initial appearances at the 1958 Brussels World's Fair and Sol Hurok's International Dance Festival paved the way for a sensational U.S. Broadway debut where the company earned the name "Cinderella of Dance Theater."

The company has inspired the growth of numerous folk dance companies in the Philippines and has encouraged other countries to showcase their own folk tradition on the international stage.

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Bayanihan pronounced by-an-EE-an

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The Merchants of Bollywood

November 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 at 8 pm

November 6, 7, 11, 13, 14 at 2 pm

Tickets start at \$25

“Their energy is electrifying, their movements suffused with a rush of joy and yet ruthlessly precise and the frenetic flow of onstage activity is almost non-stop. It's a high octane pleasure!” *The Times of London*

A theatrical dance spectacular, ***The Merchants of Bollywood*** charts the enchanting history of the world's largest and most prolific film industry, and a dynasty of stars that have lit its way over generations. ***The Merchants of Bollywood*** transcends time and is a touching tribute to the Bollywood greats of yesterday and the box-office hits of today, notably *Slumdog Millionaire*.

With a cast of 40 performers from the Film City of Mumbai, 3,800 lavish costumes and 2,000 pieces of jewellery worth in excess of one million dollars, ***The Merchants of Bollywood*** showcases all the glitz, glamour, song, dance and romance that define “Bollywood”. Inspired by the story of the Merchant family, prominent players in the Hindi film industry since the late 1920s, the production features choreography by multi-award winning Vaibhavi Merchant, granddaughter of Hiralal Merchant, one of the most influential choreographers in Bollywood history. The music is written and arranged by Salim and Sulaiman Merchant (known as Salim-Sulaiman in India) who wrote the music for the films *Naach* and *Dhoom*, which sold over 500 million tickets worldwide.

Produced by Mark & Tony Brady, ***The Merchants of Bollywood*** captures the essence of India, its rich and diverse culture, and its people in a world of technicolour brilliance.

This two-week engagement at The Sony Centre for the Performing Arts kicks-off the North American tour of ***The Merchants of Bollywood*** which first premiered in 2005 and has since toured to more than 20 countries in Europe and Australia.

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A Sadler's Wells London production
In association with Ex Machina & Sylvie Guillem

ROBERT LEPAGE'S EONNAGATA

Conceived and performed by Sylvie Guillem, Robert Lepage, Russell Maliphant

Co-produced by

Le Festival TransAmériques, Montreal

Spielzeit'europa - Berliner Festspiele

November 18 and 19, 2010 at 8 pm

Tickets start at \$39

"Slick direction and seamless transformations ensure a dream-like progression of images. Characters rise and vanish with almost magical sleight-of-hand."

The Sunday Telegraph, London

Eonnagata, an Ex Machina production presented by Sony Centre, is the latest innovation by theatrical genius **Robert Lepage**. Created and performed by **Robert Lepage**, internationally acclaimed French dancer **Sylvie Guillem** and award-winning British choreographer **Russell Maliphant**, this remarkable production from London's acclaimed Sadler's Wells first premiered in 2009 and has since toured France, Spain and Germany.

Eonnagata tells the story of Charles de Beaumont, Chevalier d'Éon, an 18th-century French diplomat, writer, and spy. Daring and unconventional, de Beaumont is believed to be the first spy to use cross-dressing in order to successfully carry out his missions and, until the day he died, his true gender was a source of constant speculation. Drawing on the onnagata of Japanese Kabuki theatre in which male actors play female roles, **Eonnagata** melds dance and theatre to probe the mystery of gender and human nature.

The nonconformism of Charles de Beaumont struck a chord with the creators of **Eonnagata**. Sylvie Guillem, a celebrated rebel of classical ballet who converted to contemporary dance, has dazzled audiences in London, Tokyo, Sydney and Paris with her grace, energy, precision and humour in shows such as *Push* and *Sacred Monsters*. Robert Lepage has been pushing the limits of theatre, mixing genres and venturing into little-known territory for over twenty years, and has attracted a large, diverse and enthusiastic following. Russell Maliphant is often described as the most important British choreographer of his generation. He blends martial arts, classical dance and the most recent lighting technologies into works that breathe fluidity and power.

Eonnagata features lighting by **Michael Hulls**, spectacular costumes by the late fashion designer **Alexander McQueen**, and sound design by **Jean-Sébastien Côté**.

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Eonnagata is supported by ROLEX

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Mazowsze
Music and Dance of Poland

November 20, 2010 at 8 pm
Tickets start at \$45

“There is nothing greater than **Mazowsze!**” *The New York Times*

“If this is the image of Poland, then long live Poland!” *Gazette de Lausanne, Switzerland*

Mazowsze Polish dancers bring their new Christmas Spectacular to the Sony Centre November 20th 2010 after two sold out Massey Hall performances in 2007.

One hundred dancers, singers and musicians in 1,500 costumes fill your senses with a thrilling kaleidoscope display of dazzling movement, vibrant colour and stunning beauty. Since its inception in 1948, **Mazowsze** has embodied the spirit and soul of the people of Poland drawing on the richness of their national dances, costumes, songs and traditions. As the official State Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, **Mazowsze** serves as an influential ambassador of Polish culture to the world, having performed before enthusiastic audiences in more than 50 countries.

The incomparable troupe features musical selections ranging from Chopin to simple Polish folk melodies.

Mazowsze is presented by Starvox Entertainment (www.starvoxent.com). Based in Toronto Canada, Starvox produces, manages, represents and promotes cross-over performing arts shows that tour the world. Starvox has toured shows across Canada and the United States, as well as México, China, the Middle East and Europe. Highlights of Starvox's recent international projects include presentations for the Shanghai International Arts Festival (China), the Tamaulipas International Festival (México), the launch event for the 50th Anniversary of the Casino du Beirut in Lebanon, a production at France's opulent theatre Le Casino du Paris, and an event for the Russian Insurance Company Reso Garantia that was held in the KGB Headquarters in Moscow.

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Mazowzse is pronounced Mah-ZOF-sha.

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A Leahy Family Christmas

November 24, 2010 at 7:30 pm

Tickets start at \$30

“Intoxicating!” *The New York Times*

“Four standing ovations and each was deserved.” *Plain Dealer*

Leahy is a Canadian powerhouse of eight musical brothers and sisters from Lakefield, Ontario who have been playing together their entire lives. This extraordinary step-dancing, fiddle-playing, song-singing family performs a full spectrum of Christmas music from sacred hymns to fiery Celtic tunes and best-loved carols.

Known for their unique blend of musical styles and genres, the breadth of their musical repertoire is reflected in the countless awards and accolades they have garnered which span many musical genres, from traditional roots, folk and country, to pop, jazz, and classical.

The band’s four acclaimed CDs – *Leahy*, *Lakefield*, *In All Things*, and *Live* – have sold over a half-million copies worldwide. Their self-titled album rose to number four on the Billboard world music charts and was featured on the soundtrack of the award-winning film *The Hanging Garden*.

Leahy has released two DVDs and produced three television specials. The band brought 175 audiences to their feet when they opened for Shania Twain on her inaugural world tour. Their compelling life story became the subject of an Oscar Award-winning documentary entitled *The Leahys: Music Most of All*.

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Leahy is pronounced LAY-hee

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Barbie™ at the Symphony

November 26, 2010 at 7 pm

November 27, 2010 at 1 pm

Tickets start at \$25.50

Barbie™ at the Symphony is a groundbreaking children's animated classical music experience, combining film projection of the best Barbie™ "Princess" movies with the world's most loved classical music scores performed LIVE by the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony.

This series of CGI animated films features Barbie™ singing and dancing to ballet sequences choreographed by Peter Martins of the renowned New York City Ballet. Released in over 30 languages, these popular films have introduced millions of children to ballets such as *The Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake* and the timeless music to which they are set. Young audience members will be introduced to the arts through this thrilling new production written especially for them.

Popular scenes from the movies including *Barbie™ as Rapunzel*, *Barbie™ in The 12 Dancing Princesses*, *Barbie™ as The Princess and the Pauper*, *Barbie™ and The Magic of Pegasus*, and interactive conversations with Barbie™ captivate audience members of all ages.

Ticket holders are invited to a special pre-concert event to meet Barbie™ one hour prior to show time. Children can wear their princess dresses and bring cameras to take a photograph with Barbie™.

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Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY

November 27, 2010 at 8 pm

Tickets start at \$30

Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY features the award-winning music from SQUARE ENIX's world-renowned *Final Fantasy* video game series. This thrilling performance combines state-of-the-art videos and art stills shown on massive screens highlighting the games most memorable sequences, with live orchestral music performed by the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony.

Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY features the music of Japanese video game composer Nobuo Uematsu. The *Final Fantasy* soundtracks, which are original compositions, have grown so popular that TIME magazine named Uematsu a notable "Innovator" in its recent "*Time 100: the Next Wave Music*" feature. This exhilarating concert will feature a special **live** guest performance by Uematsu, and new music titles from the video game. Plus, a limited number of tickets are available for a post-show Meet and Greet reception with **Nobuo Uematsu**. The 2009 world tour of ***Distant Worlds: music from FINAL FANTASY*** has enjoyed sold out performances around the world.

This performance will include music from the just released Final Fantasy XIII (March 2010) and also a special preview of music from Final Fantasy XIV (2011) with brand new visuals directly from these new games from SQUARE ENIX. This will be the first time this music is performed in Canada!

The 2.5-hour program is produced by Nobuo Uematsu, Arnie Roth and AWR Music Productions, and will be conducted by Grammy Award-winning Arnie Roth, Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Chicagoland Pops Orchestra and Festival Choir.

Video game music has grown increasingly popular in the last few years. Music plays an integral role in today's games, enhancing the players' overall experience. While still a growing market, video game soundtracks are now sold in major outlets and include a variety of genres such as rock, hip-hop, electronica, classical compositions, and songs performed by popular artists.

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The Canadian Tenors & Friends: A Christmas to Remember

December 2, 2010 at 8 pm

Tickets start at \$39.50

“One of the hottest singing groups!” - Oprah Winfrey

After thrilling audiences on their 80 city North American tour, shows in Africa, Asia and Europe, ***The Canadian Tenors*** are back home, with **The Canadian Tenors Orchestra**, for this wonderful holiday concert.

The Canadian Tenors, a vocal quartet consisting of Quebec’s **Remigio Pereira**, Toronto’s **Victor Micallef**, Vancouver’s **Fraser Walters**, and **Clifton Murray** of Port McNeil, BC, have been thrilling millions of music lovers with their eclectic blend of classical and contemporary pop. Since their debut in 2007, The Canadian Tenors have criss-crossed the globe performing more than 150 concerts and sharing the stage with such luminaries as former President Bill Clinton, Quincy Jones, Wyclef Jean, Andrea Bocelli and Canada’s musical maestro David Foster.

Recent appearances include *The Oprah Winfrey Show* singing alongside Celine Dion, a hit PBS Special, several appearances at the 2010 Winter Olympics, and starring in CBC’s *Holiday Festival of Ice* which aired around the world. The Tenors are proud to have been named the Canadian Ambassadors for Toronto’s 2015 Pan Am Games having written and performed the theme song, *Your Moment is Here*.

These talented, charismatic singers have collaborated with world-renowned producers Quiz and Larossi in Sweden (Il Divo), Bob Ezrin (Peter Gabriel, Pink Floyd), Grammy Award winner Steve Thompson (Madonna), Juno Award winner Jeff Wolpert (Loreena McKennitt) and Grammy Award winner Sarah McLachlan. Their debut album *The Canadian Tenors* and holiday album *The Perfect Gift* have both gone gold in Canada.

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Caillou's Greatest Skate of All

December 4, 2010 at 1 pm

Tickets start at \$20

Join everyone's favorite preschooler, Caillou, for a fun romp through the wonderland of winter in the all new ***Caillou's Greatest Skate of All***. This brand new musical adventure is inspired by some of Canada's most iconic pastimes including hockey and ice skating!

Winter has finally arrived, and Caillou can hardly wait to revel in the season's festivities, especially the highly-anticipated Winterfest event where his favourite hockey player in the world is set to make a very special appearance!

While having fun in the snow, Caillou has a lucky encounter with an Olympic figure skater. Caillou decides to give it a whirl himself and quickly learns that some things are harder than they look, and that everyone needs to practice, even gold medalists!

Filled with original sing-a-long songs, thrilling rollerblade displays, and lots of audience participation, Caillou, along with his family and friends, invite you to join them in this charming celebration of a Canadian winter in ***Caillou's Greatest Skate of All***.

About Caillou Live! On Stage

Caillou's Greatest Skate of All is a 90-minute theatrical production by Koba Entertainment. Led by award-winner Patti Caplette as creator and director, the creative team includes writers Kate Keenan and Leslie Halferty and theatrical designer Rejean Labrie.

Caillou, the beloved hero of preschool kids everywhere, is the star of Christine L'Heureux's original book series created in 1987 before becoming a television sensation in 1998. An international star, Caillou is enjoyed by families around the world including those in Canada, U.K., Germany, Italy and Spain. As well, his website sees over 1.2 million unique visitors each month from the U.S. alone.

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Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical

December 17, 2010 to January 2, 2011

Tickets start at \$25

“100 times better than any bedtime story!” *The New York Times*

The magic of Dr. Seuss' classic holiday tale comes to life in this critically acclaimed Broadway Musical!

Featuring the hit songs "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome Christmas" from the original animated television production, The Grinch discovers there's more to Christmas than he bargained for in this heartwarming holiday musical. Magnificent sets and costumes inspired by Dr. Seuss' original illustrations transport audiences to the whimsical world of Whoville. Max the Dog narrates as the mean and scheming Grinch, whose heart is "two sizes too small", decides to steal Christmas away from the Whos, an endlessly cheerful bunch bursting with holiday spirit.

Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical has broken box office attendance records for two consecutive years on Broadway during its limited holiday engagements at the St. James (2007) and Hilton (2006) theaters in New York City.

This critically-acclaimed production was originally created by 3-time Tony Award® winning director, Jack O'Brien, with music and book by Mel Marvin and Timothy Mason.

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Mariinsky (Formerly Kirov) Ballet, Swan Lake

Valery Gergiev, Artistic Director

March 1 to 5, 2011 at 8 pm

March 5 and 6, 2011 at 2 pm

Tickets start at \$60

“Known for their impeccable style and flawless technique, the ***Mariinsky (Kirov) Ballet*** under Valery Gergiev shines in a unique production of this beautiful and beloved story – it’s perfect for the entire family.” *The Times of London*

In their first Toronto appearance since 1989, the world-renowned ***Mariinsky Ballet*** will perform their signature ballet, ***Swan Lake***: the most popular ballet ever created – performed by the world’s most outstanding ballet company!

Swan Lake is brought vividly to life by the exceptional artistry of a company renowned – since 1783 – for classical purity and grace. Written by the great Russian composer Tchiakovsky, this ballet masterpiece premiered in Russia in 1895, first performed by the ***Mariinsky Ballet*** who has since set the world’s standard in performance of this tragic love story. Dancing the lead role of the white queen Odette and her counterpart the black swan Odile, is the ultimate career achievement of the world’s greatest ballerinas.

The ***Mariinsky’s*** long and illustrious history began in 1783 when Russian Empress Anna Ivanova established a ballet school for the instruction of favoured servants’ children. This evolved into a company that provided courtly entertainment. Under royal patronage, the company finally settled in St. Petersburg’s Bolshoi (Stone) Theatre in 1783 as the Imperial Ballet. There it remained until 1885 when it moved into the ornate, jewel-box Mariinsky Theatre, where it is still based today.

Please note: the Kirov Ballet is now touring under the name ***Mariinsky Ballet***.

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Kodo Drummers of Japan

March 11, 2011 at 8 pm

Tickets start at \$55

“Impressive, Monstrous, Astonishing!” *Le Monde, Paris*

“Audience rose to its feet in a frenzy!” *The Globe and Mail*

Widely regarded as Japan’s most acclaimed performing arts group, ***Kodo Drummers of Japan*** is a world-wide phenomenon exploring the limitless possibilities of traditional Japanese drumming. ***Kodo*** combines the power, precision and excitement of the traditional Japanese drum (taiko) with fresh dance, song and instrumental interpretations to create a dazzling display of astounding speed, dexterity, and muscular endurance.

Since its debut at the Berlin Festival in 1981, ***Kodo*** has given over 3300 performances on all five continents, spending about a third of the year overseas, a third touring in Japan and a third resting and preparing new material at the home base village on Sado Island, Japan.

Kodo’s members collaborate with a kaleidoscope of artists and composers from across the musical spectrum. These diverse experiences exert a strong influence on the group’s performances and compositions and as a result, ***Kodo*** continues to produce startling new fusions and musical forms.

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“1964”...The Tribute

March 24, 2011 at 8 pm

Tickets start at \$35

“The Best Beatles Tribute on Earth” *Rolling Stone Magazine*

Hailed by critics and fans alike as the most authentic and endearing Beatles tribute in the world, **“1964”...The Tribute** has been thrilling audiences around the globe since the early 80’s. Choosing songs from the pre-Sgt. Pepper era, **“1964”...The Tribute** recreates an early 60’s live Beatles concert with period instruments, clothing, hairstyles, and onstage banter with an accuracy that is unmatched to this day.

Over two decades of researching and performing have made **“1964”...The Tribute** masters of their craft and the result is an astonishingly genuine manifestation of the energy and magic of the 1964 Beatles invasion of America, a quintessential time in music history. They have performed over 2900 shows, released recordings, videos and were featured in a PBS special.

The band includes Mark Benson as John Lennon, Toddy Rainey as Paul McCartney, Tom Work as George Harrison, and Terry Manfredi as Ringo Starr. This engagement marks the first time **“1964”...The Tribute** will perform at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts.

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Warner Bros. Presents

Bugs Bunny At The Symphony

April 9, 2011 at 2 pm and 7 pm

Tickets start at \$38

Bugs Bunny At The Symphony is a spectacular fusion of classic Warner Bros. cartoons projected on the big screen, accompanied by their exhilarating original Carl Stalling scores played LIVE with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony conducted by George Daugherty.

Celebrating 20 years of Bugs Bunny on the concert stage, this brand new anniversary concert of **Looney Tunes** and live orchestra includes the show-stopping cartoons *What's Opera, Doc?* and *The Rabbit of Seville* – two **Looney Tunes** classics that top virtually every published list of “The World’s Funniest Cartoons” anywhere – and *Shake Your Powder Puff*, the first-ever Looney Tune which parodied the symphony orchestra world and laid the ground work for decades of classical music spoofs to come.

Bugs Bunny At The Symphony is the new sequel to the record-setting orchestra-and-film concert *Bugs Bunny on Broadway* that debuted in 1990 and reinvented a new genre of symphony orchestra concert. Created and conducted by Emmy Award™ winner George Daugherty, and produced by Daugherty, David Ka Lik Wong, and IFX Productions, ***Bugs Bunny At The Symphony*** will have a two-part world premiere: first at the Sydney Opera House with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in May 2010, and then at The Hollywood Bowl with The Los Angeles Philharmonic in July 2010, followed by an international tour.

Bugs Bunny on Broadway first shot to fame in 1990 with its sold-out, extended Broadway run at the Gershwin Theatre. Since that Broadway debut, the concert has delighted an estimated two million people worldwide over the past two decades. *Bugs Bunny On Broadway* has sold-out the world's greatest concert venues and opera houses, including The Hollywood Bowl, The Sydney Opera House, Moscow’s Kremlin Palace, Cleveland Orchestra’s Severance Hall, Chicago’s Orchestra Hall, Wolf Trap, London’s Royal Festival Hall, and The National Concert Hall of Ireland, performing with over 100 of the world’s greatest symphony orchestras. *Bugs Bunny On Broadway* has also sold out twice before in two different engagements in Toronto at Roy Thomson Hall.

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SONY CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



Breakin' Convention

May 7, 2011 at 8 pm

Tickets start at \$20

Breakin' Convention is the critically acclaimed International Festival of Hip Hop Dance Theatre. This incredible event has become a major happening in the Hip Hop dance calendar since it first began in 2004 at London's most prestigious dance house, Sadler's Wells Theatre.

The festival presents crews from every street corner of the globe, and has included highly influential artists like the Electric Boogaloos, Korean B-Boy champions Project Soul and Canada's own Rubberbandance Group. The artistic director and host of Breakin' Convention is pioneering Hip Hop theatre artist Jonzi D.

For the first ever ***Breakin' Convention: Canada***, the Sony Centre will be transformed by Hip Hop culture, with aerosol art and DJs playing old skool funk and breakbeats to packed freestyle circles. Free activities will take place on May 6th in the evening and May 7th in the afternoon.

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