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Miami City Ballet heats up Canada this winter Tour dates in Vancouver and Ottawa announced

Miami Beach, FL— **Miami City Ballet** (MCB) dancers spend their days rehearsing in sunlit studios surrounded by swaying palm trees. But this winter, our (somewhat weather-spoiled) dancers will dig out their winter coats and boots as they travel to Canada for some special performances. First stop is **Vancouver, British Columbia** in **February** at the **Queen Elizabeth Theater** as part of **Ballet BC's** 2014-2015 season and then in **March** MCB performs in **Ottawa, Ontario** as part of the **National Arts Centre's** 2014-15 dance season. The performances mark the company's Vancouver premiere and its second time performing in Ottawa (MCB performed at The National Arts Centre in 2003). This is the first time the company has toured since 2011 and its first tour under artistic director Lourdes Lopez.

MCB is one of the United States' most cherished ballet companies, critically acclaimed for their signature style of ballet – marked with a fiery attack to technique, spontaneous musicality and joyous energy. Headquartered in the heart of Miami Beach, MCB is known for its cultural diversity, boasting a strong Latin American presence with dancers coming from such countries as Cuba, Brazil, Venezuela and Colombia, among others.

Ms. Lopez says, "Miami City Ballet greatly wishes to expand its reach on the international stage. We are thrilled and grateful to Ballet BC and the National Arts Centre for presenting us in their programming this season, and to have an opportunity to perform at such prestigious venues outside of our home theaters." She continues, "Mostly, I am looking forward to the company performing stellar ballet of remarkable artistry before our Canadian friends."

Michael Scolamiero, MCB executive director adds, “Touring is vital to building the profile of any ballet company. Miami City Ballet’s international reputation was developed through invitations to perform outside its home base of South Florida, and these opportunities in Canada offer MCB yet another showcase for our remarkable Company and for our dancers to perform before new audiences.”

Ballet BC will present a full program of masterworks by **George Balanchine February 19 – 21** with performances of *Serenade*, *Symphony in Three Movements* and *Ballo della Regina*. The *New York Times* calls MCB, “one of the world’s leading exponents of choreography by George Balanchine.” The performances here will exquisitely showcase the strength and beauty of its dancers and are the perfect introduction to the company for Vancouver audiences.

Serenade is Balanchine’s first masterpiece created in America, having premiered in 1935. Set to Tchaikovsky’s *Serenade for Strings in C*, Op. 48, the iconic work is beloved by dance fans worldwide and is a staple of MCB’s repertoire. *Ballo della Regina*, set to music from Verdi’s opera *Don Carlos*, is comprised of virtuosic variations that beautifully showcase the technical prowess of MCB dancers. *Symphony in Three Movements*, set to Stravinsky, highlights some of the most dynamic dance patterns in the neoclassical paradigm.

Tickets for Ballet BC’s presentation of “Balanchine” by Miami City Ballet are on sale now. For more information visit balletbc.com. Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster at 1-855-985-2797 (855-985-ARTS) or online at ticketmaster.ca.

National Arts Centre welcomes MCB back to its stage **March 5 – 7** with two Canadian premieres – **Alexei Ratmansky’s** cinematic *Symphonic Dances* and Richard Alston’s sultry *Carmen*. Balanchine’s cheery *Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux* rounds out the program.

Ratmansky, proclaimed by the *New Yorker* as, “the man who is remaking ballet,” choreographed *Symphonic Dances* specifically for MCB dancers. It is a dramatic and visually stunning ballet set to Sergei Rachmaninoff’s final important work -- his large-scale *Symphonic Dances*, Op. 45. *Carmen*, choreographed by the acclaimed British choreographer Richard Alston, is a smoldering, flamenco-fueled, 50-minute adaptation of the classic saga of passion and betrayal performed to the music of Rodion

Shchedrin's *Carmen Suite*. While Alston is known for his contemporary choreography, *Carmen* is a classical ballet featuring elaborate costumes juxtaposed by a modern, minimalist set design. Performances will feature the National Arts Centre Orchestra. *Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux*, set to the "lost music" from *Swan Lake, Act III*, features eight and a half minutes of Balanchine's signature traits: his surprises, his complexities, his challenging quirks and combinations.

Tickets for National Arts Centre's presentation of Miami City Ballet are on sale September 2, 2014. For more information or to purchase tickets visit <http://nac-cna.ca> or call Ticketmaster at 1-888-991-2787.

About Miami City Ballet

Hailed by the *New York Times* as "one of America's most beloved dance companies," Miami City Ballet is led by Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez. The Company has 50 dancers and a repertoire of nearly 100 ballets. Among the Company's notable achievements have been critically acclaimed performances in Paris and New York City and the nationally televised PBS THIRTEEN special: *Great Performances - Dance In America: Miami City Ballet Dances Balanchine and Tharp*.

During its October to April season Miami City Ballet performs in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Naples. Miami City Ballet maintains its headquarters in Miami Beach in a facility designed by renowned architectural firm Arquitectonica. The facility houses rehearsal studios and administrative offices as well as the Miami City Ballet School, home to one of the nation's leading pre-professional ballet training programs.

About Ballet BC

Combining classical integrity with a contemporary sensibility, Ballet BC is a company of 18 talented dancers from Canada and around the world that is committed to the ballet of today. Solidly grounded in the rigour and artistry of classical ballet, with an emphasis on innovation and the immediacy of the 21st Century, the Company presents a distinct and diverse repertoire of the most sought-after Canadian and international contemporary ballet choreography. Ballet BC continues its commitment to perform highly acclaimed productions on regional, national, and international tours in addition to its regular performance season at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver.

About National Arts Centre

The National Arts Centre (NAC) is the only bilingual – English and French – multidisciplinary performing arts centre in Canada, and one of the largest in the world. The NAC collaborates with artists and arts organizations across Canada to help create a national stage for the performing arts, and acts as a catalyst for performance, creation and learning. The NAC strives to be artistically adventurous in each of its programming streams – the *NAC Orchestra*, *English Theatre*, *French Theatre* and *Dance*, as well as the *Scene festivals* and *NAC Presents*, which showcase established and emerging artists. The organization is at the forefront of youth and educational activities, offering artist training, programs for children and youth, and resources for teachers in communities across Canada. The NAC is also a pioneer in new media, using technology to teach students and young artists around the globe, by creating top-rated podcasts, and providing a wide range of NAC Orchestra concerts on demand.

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