



## Creation of Ballet Unleashed offers new, enduring career pathway for young dancers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 31, 2021 – Canada's National Ballet School, the Dutch National Ballet Academy and The Palucca University of Dance Dresden, in collaboration with eight other educational dance institutions, are excited to announce the creation of Ballet Unleashed, a new project-based dance company for young artists.

An innovative, enduring pathway for artists, Ballet Unleashed brings choreographers together with young dancers to explore new ways of creating dance, share artistic ideas and collaborate on a wide range of creative ballet projects. Born in response to the global pandemic, Ballet Unleashed aims to facilitate global connections between artists and audiences to create performances long into the future.

Emerging and established choreographers from across the globe will create new works for graduating ballet students, helping to expand dancers' boundaries and support their growth as artists through mentorship and coaching. Together, they will bring creative projects to life beyond traditional approaches and presentation formats.

The first project will be led by world-renowned choreographer Cathy Marston and is due to start in April 2021. To start, all 2020 and 2021 graduates of the 11 affiliate training institutions can apply. Further projects are planned.

The eight other institutions involved thus far are the Ailey School, the Australian Ballet School, the Ballet School of the Opera National de Paris, the Boston Ballet School, the New Zealand School of Dance, the Royal Ballet School, the Royal Danish Ballet School and the San Francisco Ballet School.

Comprehensive information on Ballet Unleashed can be found at [www.balletunleashed.com](http://www.balletunleashed.com).

### Quotes

"Expanding the range of employment opportunities open to emerging professional ballet dancers, by modelling 'project work' that has long been standard practice for actors and musicians, has been a cherished dream for over a decade. Ironically, the Pandemic turbulence currently engulfing the globe has cleared the way for innovations that will endure long into the future and lead to profound systemic change that will strengthen the art form immeasurably. In my view, 'Ballet Unleashed' has the potential to be a pioneering change-maker not only for dance artists but also in ballet's accessibility and relevance to global audiences," says **Mavis Staines, Artistic Director and CEO at Canada's National Ballet School**.

"I see a lot of wonderful opportunities here for our BA Dance and MA Choreography graduates and hopefully also for our MA Dance Teacher ballet masters. It has the potential to show new and innovative forms, not only in terms of the training of dancers, choreographers and dance teachers of tomorrow but also in terms of an active understanding of roles, with the aim of establishing new structures and possibilities and shaping occupations and job profiles," says **Prof. Jason Beechey, rector of the Palucca University of Dance Dresden**.

“I truly believe that Ballet Unleashed will provide new and exciting pathways for young dancers and creators. Although in the first instance a reaction to the Covid crisis, I hope this new initiative will add a whole new range of opportunities that will be here to stay next to the established career paths in ballet. There is a whole new generation growing up currently that will discover new routes. With new ideas, evolving connections and worldwide interaction they will move the exciting art of ballet forward. I am thrilled that Dutch National Ballet Academy and its students could play a part in the birth of this new venture and look forward to see it grow to its next stages,” says **Ernst Meisner, Artistic Director of Dutch National Ballet Academy**.

## About

At **Canada’s National Ballet School** (NBS), excellence, access and inclusion fuel our belief in sharing the transformative power of dance. Since 1959, NBS’ pursuit of excellence has constantly revealed the life-changing impact of dance. This is what drives the School’s commitment to making dance a part of all Canadians’ lives—from the Olympic-calibre dancer training for a professional ballet career on the world stage to the young child or older adult who may be embracing the joy of dance and creative movement for the first time. Learn more at [www.nbs-enb.ca](http://www.nbs-enb.ca).

The **Dutch National Ballet Academy** is the only ballet school in the Netherlands affiliated to the internationally acclaimed [Dutch National Ballet](#). Hans van Manen, one of the world’s most influential choreographers and Ted Brandsen, artistic director of the Dutch National Ballet, respectively hold the positions of Honorary Patron and Artistic Advisor of the Dutch National Ballet Academy. The Academy trains talented young dancers at the highest level, bringing their skills up to the professional standards required by the world’s leading dance companies. Dutch National Ballet Junior Company was established in 2013 to be a stepping stone for young dancers to make the leap from school to company. The Dutch National Ballet Academy is part of the Academy of Theatre and Dance - Amsterdam University of the Arts.

The **Palucca University of Dance Dresden** is Germany's only independent university for dance. The nine-year dance training begins at the age of ten at the integrated secondary school. In addition to the degree programme BA Dance, the University also offers the postgraduate programmes MA Dance Teacher (full-time and part-time) and MA Choreography. The University has a total of 29 partner schools and universities worldwide, including the Vaganova Ballet Academy (Russia), Canada's National Ballet School and the Korean National University of the Arts, as well as nine German dance schools of the Dance Education Conference. The University is also a partner school of the Prix de Lausanne. [www.palucca.eu](http://www.palucca.eu)

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