

## Goh to retire from National Ballet

PAWEL DWULIT/TORONTO  
STAR

Principal dancers Aleksandar Antonijevic and Chan Hon Goh perform a dance from *Romeo and Juliet* at the announcement Feb. 9, 2009, of the National Ballet of Canada's 2009-10 season. Goh will be retiring this June.

Goh's retirement adds a sad touch to announcement of the National Ballet's new season

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The National Ballet of Canada is hoping to weather tough economic times with a 2009-10 season that includes new works along with such audience favourites as *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty*.

The company is also bidding farewell to principal dancer Chan Hon Goh, who is retiring in June after 20 years with the troupe, though not before she performs in *Romeo and Juliet* and *Giselle* later this season.

"I'm not immune to feeling bereft when an artist chooses to end their career and it always happens too soon, in my opinion.

"For someone who appears so fragile and delicate, she (Goh) has the most amazing strength," an emotional artistic director Karen Kain said yesterday.

Executive director Kevin Garland said despite good audiences in the current season – especially for its annual Christmas season presentation of *The Nutcracker* – the company has seen "an erosion of earned income as the economic news kept getting worse every day."

But that won't stop the company from continuing with its twofold mission to present beloved classical ballet along with daring new work by contemporary choreographers.

"That's our artistic mission and that's the very last thing you give up when you're faced with adversity. We're not going to give up on those two missions: beautiful classical work and very adventurous new work," Garland said.



The 2009-10 season will begin in September with a tour of five western Canadian cities of *The Sleeping Beauty*, choreographed by Rudolf Nureyev, before going to Ottawa's National Arts Centre from Nov. 5 to 7. It will open at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto on Nov. 13.

A world premiere of Edmonton-born choreographer Aszure Barton's latest work will debut in November, along with George Balanchine's neo-classical *The Four Temperaments* and Jerome Robbins' modernist *Glass Pieces*, which was a hit for the ballet in 2007.

Following *The Nutcracker's* annual run from Dec. 12 to Jan. 3, the spring portion of the next season will feature Marie Chouinard's *24 Preludes by Chopin*, James Kudelka's *The Four Seasons* and another Robbins work, *A Suite of Dances*.

Kudelka's famed interpretation of *Swan Lake* will be onstage from March 11 to 21, 2010.

Another world premiere, new work by Finnish choreographer Jorma Elo, will be presented later in the season alongside Robbins' *West Side Story Suite* and *Opus 19/The Dreamer*.

The season will close with a remount of John Cranko's *Onegin*, featuring a new set and costume design by Santo Loquasto.