

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Krystle Landert
Phone: 604 872 4014 ext. 126
Email: klandert@gohballet.com

Artistic Director of Pacific Northwest Ballet, Peter Boal, and First Soloist of the Birmingham Royal Ballet, Céline Gittens join Vancouver’s Goh Ballet for an invaluable mentorship opportunity.

Now in progress, the Goh Ballet Academy is hosting their Junior and Senior International Summer Intensive (July 6th – August 8th) and as an additional opportunity its students are being offered two exclusive master classes that will be an instrumental part of their summer training.

"There is an energy and vitality in the dance studio when invaluable information about the art form is passed down from one generation to another; this is the most precious gift unlike anything else," says Chan Hon Goh, Director of Goh Ballet Academy. "Both Peter and Celine will be generously sharing their artistic gifts with our students and I am very appreciative of their dedication and support."

The first master class is on Saturday July 25th and taught by one of North Americas most respected Artistic Directors, Peter Boal. A former Principal Dancer with the New York City Ballet and current Director of Pacific Northwest Ballet, Mr. Boal brings both artistic nuances and the dynamic Balanchine technique to his teaching, allowing his students to garner unique skills and knowledge that will further enhance their performance abilities.

The second master class is on Tuesdays July 28th and taught by Goh Ballet alumni, Birmingham Royal Ballet’s First Soloist Céline Gittens. The Academy is excited to have Ms. Gittens back to mentor and share her passion with the next generation of Goh dancers. Known for her beautifully fluent technique and strong dramatic presence, Ms. Gittens is a role model for many young dancers who aspire to have a professional career.

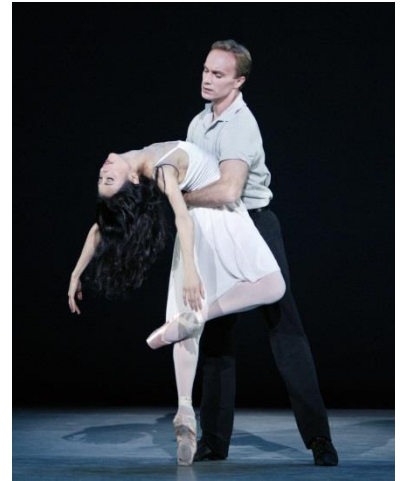
Two incredible guest artists both giving their time, knowledge and experience to benefit talented young Vancouver dancers looking to pursue their artistic dreams. Goh Ballet’s International Summer Intensive continues to attract students from around the globe and fosters artistry and individual expression as well as facilitates invaluable mentorship between world-renowned guest instructors and students.

WHO:	Peter Boal, Director of Pacific Northwest Ballet	Céline Gittens, First Soloist with Birmingham Royal Ballet
WHAT:	An exclusive master class with Peter Boal, PNB Director	An exclusive master class with Céline Gittens, BRB First Soloist
WHERE:	Goh Ballet Academy (2345 Main Street – Vancouver, BC)	
WHEN:	Saturday July 25 th , 2015 1:30pm – 2:45pm (Junior) *Refreshments Served 3:00pm – 4:30pm (Senior)	Tuesday July 28 th , 2015 4:30pm - 5:45pm (Seniors) *Refreshments Served 6:30pm – 7:45Pm (Juniors)

About Peter Boal

Peter Boal was raised in Bedford, New York. At the age of nine, after having seen a New York City Ballet performance of George Balanchine's *Coppélia*, he began studying ballet at the School of American Ballet, the official school of New York City Ballet. Mr. Boal became a member of New York City Ballet's corps de ballet in 1983, a soloist in 1987, and a principal dancer in 1989. In 2005, he retired from New York City Ballet after a 22-year career with the company. Mr. Boal was also a full-time faculty member at the School of American Ballet from 1997 to 2005. In 2003, he founded Peter Boal and Company, a critically acclaimed chamber ensemble.

Among the many ballets in which Mr. Boal was featured at New York City Ballet are George Balanchine's *Agon*, *Apollo*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon), and *Prodigal Son*; Jerome Robbins' *Dances at a Gathering* and *Opus 19/The Dreamer*; Ulysses Dove's *Red Angels*; and works by William Forsythe, Peter Martins, Twyla Tharp, and Christopher Wheeldon.



About Céline Gittens:

Céline Gittens was born in Trinidad and grew up in Vancouver, Canada. She started her dance training at the age of three, under the guidance of her mother, before joining the Vancouver Goh Ballet Academy in 2001. She joined Birmingham Royal Ballet in 2006; First Artist 2009; Soloist, 2011; First Soloist, 2015.

In October of 2012, Céline Gittens danced the lead role in the Birmingham Royal Ballet Company's production of *Swan Lake*. It was the first time that the ballerina role was taken by a black dancer in the UK; turning an important page in the art's form. A *Swan Lake* debut is a significant milestone in a dancer's career and marked her entrée to the top rank of the profession.



About Goh Ballet:

At the forefront of the dance and arts communities in Vancouver for over 35 years, Goh Ballet believes in fostering local talents and is the training ground for future dance professionals. The Academy offers diversity of programming that empowers youth, building a greater awareness of themselves through expression in the dance vocabulary as well as empathy for others, while sowing the seeds for healthy living through exercise. A multitude of classes are available for children and adults with extensive curriculum. The Goh Ballet furthers dancers' dedication to world-class training with the Goh Ballet Youth Company Canada which provides performance and touring opportunities essential for those striving for a career in dance.

The Goh Ballet is consistently committed to technical excellence showcased through a wide-ranging and ever expanding repertoire of classical and contemporary ballet, jazz, character and Chinese dance. Goh Ballet has trained students that have received medals and first prizes at the world's most prestigious dance competitions. Its influence is also felt internationally where Goh Ballet graduates have gone on to fill the ranks of top notch companies all over the world. It is this commendable success that has merited invitations to perform at numerous civic, corporate and charitable events each year locally and internationally.

Interview Requests & Photo Ops

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