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Goh Ballet's first Canadian Ballet Master Class Series launched

A unique opportunity for aspiring dancers to be mentored by a Canadian ballet superstar

March 7, 2014 – Vancouver, Canada: Today Goh Ballet launches its first Canadian ballet master class series with Chan Hon Goh, former Prima Ballerina of the National Ballet of Canada and current director of the Goh Ballet.

The inaugural tour will take place in April 2014, and provides a rare opportunity for aspiring dancers aged 12 and up to have an experience with one of this generation's most gifted and prolific artists. Participants will be given professional training and thought provoking coaching that focuses on emotional artistic expression and repertoire by a Canadian ballet superstar.

Chan Hon Goh, Director of Goh Ballet, explains: "This master class series is a first for Goh Ballet and our aim is to inspire and mentor aspiring dancers across Canada to reach their goals and achieve their dreams. Open to students ages 12 and up, these sessions will focus on artistic elements not typically accessible in ballet classes.

"We will explore uninhibited artistic and emotional elements that elevate a performance to become more than the sum of its parts. We hope to encourage respect for the art form, foster confidence and provoke thought among students."

The master classes will be hosted in nine cities including Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Kelowna, Nanaimo and Vancouver (*full schedule below*).

To register for a class, please visit <http://www.gohballet.com/CanadianMasterClassSeries/>. The participation fee is \$25 which includes class and discussions with the artist.

The Canadian Master Class Series is proudly sponsored by **De Beers Canada** (to confirm proper name acknowledgement)

Master class schedule:

- **Toronto** — Thursday, April 3rd at Canadian Children Dance Theatre
- **Montreal** — Friday, April 4th at Ballet Montreal
- **Winnipeg** — Saturday, April 5th at Royal Winnipeg Ballet School
- **Edmonton** — Sunday, April 6th at Edmonton School of Ballet
- **Calgary** — Sunday April 6th at School of Alberta Ballet



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- **Saskatoon** — Monday, April 7th at Dance Saskatchewan
- **Kelowna** — Tuesday, April 8th at Canadian School of Ballet
- **Nanaimo** — Sunday, April 13th at Kirkwood Academy
- **Vancouver** — Friday, April 25th at Goh Ballet

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About Chan Hon Goh:

Born in Beijing, Chan Hon Goh immigrated with her family to Vancouver, where she studied in the professional program at the Goh Ballet Academy. Upon graduation in 1988, she joined The National Ballet of Canada and has been a Principal Dancer since 1994. She danced her farewell performance on May 31st 2009 as Giselle to a sold out house at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto, Ontario.

Ms. Goh was the first Canadian to receive the Silver Medal at the Genève International Ballet Competition in London, England and was a prize recipient at the Prix de Lausanne. In her illustrious 20 year stage career, Ms. Goh employed her delicate lyricism and emotional depth to personify the essence of numerous lead roles and had multiple roles created for her. In 2005, she received the New Pioneers Arts Award for her contributions to dance in Canada. Recently, Ms. Goh received the 2010 Mandarin Profile Female Entrepreneur Award and became the only Canadian Recipient of the National Association of Asian American Professionals 100 award (NAAAP) for her tireless contributions and commitment to a multitude of projects benefiting the arts communities. She has also been honoured with the 2010 FMA Vancouver Art Achievement Award for her contributions towards enhancing the identity of Canadian Art and Dance. In October of 2010, the Vancouver Sun named Ms. Goh as British Columbia's 100 of Influence. In 2012, Ms. Goh was appointed as one of the founding members of Vancouver's Arts and Culture Policy Council; assisting in giving the city a voice for the creative community. In January of 2013, Ms. Goh received the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her on going contributions and dedication to nurturing the professional development of young dancers. Most recently, in May 2013, she received the coveted YWCA Women of Distinction Award for inspiring so many through her outstanding achievements and contributions to the well-being of arts in Vancouver and Canada.

Ms. Goh currently directs all aspects of operations for the Goh Ballet. She also plays the key role as Executive Producer for the Goh Ballet's critically acclaimed production of *The Nutcracker*.

About Goh Ballet:



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At the forefront of the dance and art 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 and Goh Ballet furthers their 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. Goh Ballet graduates have gone on to fill the ranks of top-notch companies the world over. It is this commendable success that has merited invitations to perform at numerous civic, corporate and charitable events each year locally and nationally.