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Chan Hon Goh Appointed Director of the Goh Ballet Academy and the Goh Ballet Youth Company

Prima Ballerina steps off stage, returning to her roots at world-class training institute

Vancouver, BC – Goh Ballet Foundation’s Board of Directors, alongside Co-Founders Choo Chiat Goh and Lin Yee Goh, proudly announced today that Prima Ballerina with The National Ballet of Canada Chan Hon Goh has accepted the official appointment as Director of the Goh Ballet Academy and Goh Ballet Youth Company, effective September 1, 2010.

"Chan Hon Goh brings a wealth of professional and educational experience as well as her artistic vision to the Goh Ballet, which will allow the internationally-renowned Academy and Youth Company to continue to flourish in the years ahead. Ms. Goh’s wish to expand the use of artistic expression in young dancers adds vibrancy to our organization," said Goh Ballet Foundation Board Director, Carmen Stossel.

Remarking on Ms. Goh’s return to the Goh Ballet Academy where her dance training began at the tender age of 9, Mr. Choo Chiat Goh, Ms. Goh’s proud father said, “Chan’s extraordinary accomplishments as a Principal Dancer with The National Ballet of Canada, coveted international guest artist, and teacher, coupled with an integrity that embraces the most important elements of classical ballet, make my daughter the ideal individual to lead our acclaimed school and youth dancers, while honouring our traditions and nurturing, supporting and guiding students in their dreams to becoming professional dancers.”

In her illustrious 20 year stage career, Ms. Goh employed her delicate lyricism and emotional depth to personify the essence of lead roles in ballets such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Onegin* and the title roles in *Giselle*, *Madame Butterfly* and *La Sylphide*. Ms. Goh is a much sought-after international guest artist and has appeared with numerous companies throughout Europe, Asia, Australia, and North America. She is often invited to produce evenings of dance around the world. In addition, she was the first Canadian to receive the Silver Medal at the Genè International Ballet Competition in London, England and was a prize recipient at the Prix de Lausanne. In 2005, Ms. Goh received the New Pioneers Arts

Award for her contributions to dance in Canada, and most recently she was the only Canadian recipient of the National Association of Asian American Professionals 100 award (NAAAP), and winner of the 2010 Mandarin Profile award in Toronto.

"I'm truly honored to be appointed to the position of Director of the Goh Ballet Academy and Youth Company – an institute that is very near and dear to my heart. I am particularly delighted to be joining an amazing team of dedicated faculty and staff who put their heart and souls into making the Academy and Company a success, and I certainly look forward to being a part of this passionate and inspiring group," said Chan Hon Goh. "My new position at the Goh Ballet will enable me to call upon all the areas of expertise I've been fortunate to acquire during my years as a professional dancer. As such, I hope to continue fostering a rigorous learning environment that prepares young dancers for life in the extremely competitive world of professional dance, while building on the Goh Ballet's solid reputation for excellence and artistic achievement, established by my parents 32 years ago."

Ms. Goh's ambitious plans for the Goh Ballet include the establishment of the Chan Hon Goh Scholarship Fund, which will award the significant sum of \$100,000 to promising Goh Ballet students each academic year, furthering their professional development in dance. She will act as Executive Producer for the second season of the highly successful holiday classic *The Nutcracker*, opening up the opportunity to perform alongside Principal Dancers from The National Ballet of Canada and Pacific Northwest Ballet to students of all ages throughout the Lower Mainland. It is also Ms. Goh's wish to expose her students to a wide range of international guest teachers; Peter Boal, Artistic Director of Pacific Northwest Ballet; Nikolay Levitskiy, Two-Time Youth America Grand Prix Best Teacher Award Recipient; Jean-Yves Esquerre, Program Supervisor of San Francisco Ballet; and Olivier Wecksteen, Former Principal Dancer of Les Ballet de Monte-Carlo and Boston Ballet.

About Goh Ballet Academy

Established in 1978, the Goh Ballet Academy is a highly respected, world-class training institute, providing students with an advanced education to equip them for a lasting career in the field of dance.

Under the Direction of Chan Hon Goh with Co-Founders Choo Chiat Goh and Lin Yee Goh, the Academy introduces new interpretations of classic full-length productions, nurtures and cultivates award-winning ballet artists, while commissioning new works by some of today's most renowned and sought-after choreographers.

The Goh Ballet has achieved international acclaim as one of Canada's pre-eminent ballet schools, giving rise to young talent, and filling the ranks of ballet companies around the globe.

For more information about Goh Ballet Academy's programs and performances, please visit www.gohballet.com.

Reference:

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