
For Immediate Release

**Former National Ballet Dancers Come to Cambridge to Teach
Special Ballet Workshop Offers Performance Showcase**

Cambridge, Ontario. October 19, 2009... Local ballet dancers will have an amazing opportunity at their doorstep when Canada's most accomplished male dancer, Frank Augustyn, comes to the Cambridge Centre for the Arts. The renowned 'Augustyn and Artists' will offer an informative ballet workshop with a new twist that includes an on stage performance option with former principal dancers of the National Ballet of Canada.

"The program was offered last year and people came from surrounding communities that were several hours away to take part in the unique Cambridge workshop," says Sophie McCann, Coordinator for Cambridge Centre for the Arts. "This year's new performance event is an added bonus for participants to showcase their talents and share their experience with the community."

'Augustyn and Artists' will take place on January 2, 3 and 4, 2010 but registration is happening now. **Students who register before November 15, 2009 will receive an early bird discount.**

The workshop is co-organized by Carolyn Zettel-Augustyn and local dance teacher and artist Michele Hopkins. In addition to Frank Augustyn and Mary Jago who are former principal dancers of the National Ballet of Canada, the workshop features other world renowned dancers, choreographers and teachers including: Peter Quanz, an international choreographer who recently created original work for the National Ballet of Canada; and Trish Armstrong, former dancer of the Danny Grossman Company. There's even a registered physiotherapist on the team.

"Dance students who are seven years and older, as well as beginner and intermediate adults, can register for this popular dance workshop," says co-organizer Michele Hopkins. She says that Cambridge has a vibrant and growing community of dance and she hopes more local dancers will join in for the training.

"Dance is getting in everyone's consciousness. This workshop brings it to people in a way that everyone gets something out of it," adds Hopkins.

The second day intensive will conclude with an open demonstration and discussion of the classical ballet Copellia. Classical variations from the ballet will be presented by participants who attend the second day option.

When it comes to the live performance feature, parents and ballet lovers alike are invited to attend this special free event on Sunday, January 3 at 2:00 pm at the Cambridge Centre for the Arts, 60 Dickson Street in civic square.

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to experience dance at the Cambridge Centre for the Arts. Enrolment is limited. For more information including the registration form online visit www.cambridgecentreforthearts.ca or call 519-740-4681 ext. 4376.

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About the Program

The workshop will include ballet, pre-pointe and pointe, modern, variations/ repertoire, pilates for dancers, exploring choreography and exploring the ballet. Open demonstrations include "The Pointe Shoe" by the National Ballet School and Variations from Copellia presented by second day participants. Frank Augustyn will also be conducting adult ballet classes with a ballet talk for beginner (no experience necessary) and advanced level participants.

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Attention Editors - Frank and others in the company are available for interview by phone. Please let us know if you wish to arrange a conversation.

About Frank Augustyn

Acclaimed to be Canada's most accomplished male dancer, Frank Augustyn was trained at the prestigious National Ballet School of Canada and was invited to join the National Ballet Company in 1970. He was promoted to principal dancer in 1972. In 1973, he and Karen Kain won 1st place for the best pas de deux at the Second International Ballet competition in Moscow, dancing the technically demanding role of the Blue Bird pas de deux from Sleeping Beauty. That win catapulted Augustyn and Kain to instant stardom, and they enjoyed a fabled partnership during their performing years.

Throughout his illustrious career, Augustyn danced all the major classical roles as well as a number of significant roles in contemporary repertoire. He established himself as a guest artist and danced in nearly every major city in the world with companies including, Boston Ballet, Royal Ballet, Turin Ballet, The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Shanghai Ballet, Beijing Ballet, Berlin Opera Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet and Kirov Ballet. Additionally, for numerous consecutive years he graced the Metropolitan Opera House and New York State Theatre, New York, for numerous consecutive years with the National Ballet Company of Canada performing on-stage with Rudolf Nureyev.

Augustyn has worked with the most highly celebrated choreographers including, Rudolf Nureyev, Erik Bruhn, Frederick Ashton, John Cranko, Hans Van Mannen, Maurice Béjart, Nicholas Beriozoff, Rudi van Danzig, Jose Limon, Kenneth McMillan and Glen Tetley. Recognized for his outstanding contribution to dance Frank Augustyn has been honored with numerous awards of distinction including, Honorary Doctorate Degrees from York University and McMaster University in 1979 and Trent University in 2003 where additionally he was the 2000-2001 Ashley Fellow. In 1979 he was bestowed Canada's most distinguished title Officer, Order of Canada (O.C.) for his outstanding achievement in the arts. Frank Augustyn has been the artistic director of Ottawa Ballet and Le Gala des Étoiles an annual international dance event held in major cities globally. He has authored Footnotes Dancing the World's Best Loved Ballets published in 2001, named one of the top ten Canadian best books for children in 2003 by Hackmatack Choice Book Awards, and Dancing From the Heart- A Memoir published in 2000. He co-produced, co-wrote and hosted a documentary series Footnotes, the Classics of Ballet seen on Bravo Television United States and Canada. Translated into four languages Footnotes, the Classics of Ballet continues to be aired as a special feature in Asia, Europe and North America. Frank Augustyn became the Director of the Dance Program at Adelphi University in New York in 2000, was granted tenure 2006 and appointed Chair of the Dance Department in 2007.

The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada's Technology Triangle. In 2009, the population reached over 126,000 people. With a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services, Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit www.cambridge.ca

The City of Cambridge press room is located at

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