

## #ZESTWoman: Chan Hon Goh, A Life of Ballet

BY: HELEN SIWAK



With an illustrious stage career of over 20 years as Principal Dancer with the [National Ballet of Canada](#), Chan Hon Goh is one of the most prolific artists of her generation. Her delicate lyricism and emotional depth personify the essence of numerous lead roles.



*Chan Hon Goh performing Swan Lake*

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In 2010 upon retiring from her performing career, Chan accepted the invitation to become the Director of [Goh Ballet](#), to further her passion to inspire dancers of tomorrow and to provide students with opportunities to train with world-renowned

teachers. Extending her reach and always advocating for the arts, Chan serves as a jury member for several international competitions. She guest instructs and sets choreography for some of the most renowned companies in the world and since 2009 has been the Executive Producer of Goh Ballet's critically acclaimed **The Nutcracker**, a holiday tradition in the **City of Vancouver**. This year, Goh Ballet's The Nutcracker will feature Principal Dancers from the National Ballet of Canada with over 200 local artists and accompanied by the **Vancouver Opera Orchestra** from December 15th to 20th at **The Centre** in Vancouver.



*Inspiring performers internationally*

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***Who has been your greatest inspiration?***

My greatest inspiration is my father. A person who has such a generous heart. He has taught me the importance of being able to live with ones decisions and to do unto others as you would wish others to do unto you. A man who leads by example, he has never lost his trust in the goodness of people. A person who does not believe in spite but rather, in time. He inspires me with his gratitude towards life and to live it to the fullest. He taught me to go for my dreams and to believe that they can become a reality through hard work and perseverance.



***What makes you happiest? What do you do in your non-work time?***

I am happiest when I find synergy with fulfillment in my career and family life; when I am able to be highly efficient with progress at work and to be totally committed to family time and events. I love just being with my husband without a schedule or a place to be and that we can just be lost in the moment. I love to cook and bake for my family and show my son how to make things. I am happiest to have the chance to see the world through the eyes of my son and rediscover things again for the first time with a different view.

***How do you build successful friendships?***

To me – honesty, loyalty, trust, consideration and forgiveness are all keys to a successful friendship. The friendship has to be equally valuable and dependable for both. I also feel that true friendships go beyond having to be constantly in touch but that you are there when needed and vice versa. Friendships should



stand the test of time and distance. I build true friendships without ulterior motives.

***How do you generate new ideas?***

I find that new ideas usually present themselves when I am not trying to generate them. When I am the most relaxed and not under the pressure of figuring something out, the best ideas come to me. I'm quite spontaneous and I feel that new ideas are uncontrollable.

***How do you define success and what is best way to achieve long-term success?***

I define success with the financial capabilities of making choices, when one receives respect from the people they love and the environment they live in, and when one has contributed at some level, to making the world a happier place. I feel the best way to achieve long-term success is to persevere and to be flexible; to never stop learning.

***WHO IS CHAN HON GOH?***



Chan is a founding member of **Vancouver's Arts and Culture Policy Council**, which assists in giving the creative community a voice. Her accomplishments, with irrepressible devotion to the enhancement of the cultural life of Canada, have garnered several prestigious awards including the **Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal**, the **YWCA Women of Distinction Award** and the **New Pioneers Arts Award**. In January of 2017, Ms Goh will spear head the **Global Dance Challenge** in Vancouver, the event that will offer an outstanding international platform for young dancers with an extraordinary opportunity to showcase their work to internationally renowned

teachers, choreographers and directors from some of the most distinguished companies.

**BLUSHVancouver** is so pleased to share Chan Hon Goh's incredible story with our readers. If you know a woman who has **ZEST** and who should be honoured with a spotlight, [let us know!](#)