



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Bengt Jörgen, Artistic Director & CEO of *Ballet Jörgen Canada* joins Vancouver's *Goh Ballet* for an invaluable mentorship opportunity.**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Vancouver, BC, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010) – Bengt Jörgen, the Artistic Director and CEO of Ballet Jörgen Canada, will work with students at the Goh Ballet Academy in an exclusive master class for the advanced level students. Additionally, the members of his company will be joining the Goh Ballet Academy's Senior Professional class, creating an invaluable opportunity for mentorship between the professional dancers of Ballet Jörgen and the rising stars of the Goh Ballet Academy.

Ballet Jörgen, a Toronto-based Ballet Company, is touring western Canada with their innovative rendition of *Cinderella*. Their stopover in Vancouver has granted them the opportunity to collaborate with the Goh Ballet Academy. Bengt Jörgen is pleased to be working with the students at the Goh Ballet Academy stating, *"I have the highest regard for the Goh family and the excellent training they provide. Ballet Jörgen Canada has engaged several graduates from the Goh Ballet Academy, all who have become very valuable members of the company."*

The Goh Ballet Academy is more than ecstatic to be hosting this distinguished choreographer and his company. *"It is a wonderful honour to have a company director come to teach us. We will gain experience and insight from his years of experience"* comments Goh Ballet's aspiring professional Danielle Gould (16), *"this is an opportunity for us to gain knowledge and further our training to become a professional dancer"*.

This event is made more extraordinary since one of Ballet Jörgen's dancers, Alyssa Stevens, is a graduate of the Goh Ballet Academy's Youth Company Program. Choo Chiat Goh, Founder and Artistic Director of the Goh Ballet is happy to have Stevens return. *"It is nice to see another one of our graduates dancing in a professional Canadian company."*

This unique fusion of aspiring dancers and professionals is all too rare and will be embraced by all involved. *"We have known Ballet Jörgen for many years"* states Goh, *"They are a company with a pool of energy and innovation. We welcome them to the Vancouver area and wish them great success with all their performances"*.

**WHO:** Ballet Jörgen Canada and the Goh Ballet Academy

**WHAT:** A master class by Bengt Jörgen and collaboration class with Goh Ballet Academy students and Ballet Jörgen Canada professionals.

**WHERE:** Goh Ballet Academy (2345 Main Street - Vancouver, BC)

**WHEN:** 1:30 – 3:00pm, Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Please contact Katie Weber to schedule a viewing of the classes and interviews with the principals involved.

## **About the Goh Ballet Academy**

Established in 1978, the Goh Ballet Academy is an internationally renowned institute, recognized for its high caliber ballet training and performances, providing students with advanced knowledge to prepare them for a flourishing career in the field of dance.

The Goh Ballet was founded by [Choo Chiat Goh](#) and [Lin Yee Goh](#) and is now under the direction of [Chan Hon Goh](#), former Prima Ballerina of the National Ballet of Canada. The Goh Ballet Academy has received international acclaim as one of Canada's preeminent ballet schools, giving rise to young talent, with its graduates filling the ranks of world-renowned ballet companies. This recognition has enabled the Goh Ballet to offer invaluable opportunities for students to perform internationally, work with professional dancers, and represent Canada around the globe as an ambassador for Canadian dance and arts culture.

For more information about Goh Ballet's programs and performances, please visit [www.gohballet.com](http://www.gohballet.com).

## **About Bengt Jörgen – Artistic Director and CEO of Ballet Jörgen Canada**

Bengt Jörgen is the current Artistic Director Producer of Ballet Jörgen Canada and George Brown Dance. He is a winner of the Clifford E. Lee Choreography Award and has created over 30 ballets for numerous ballet and opera companies including the National Ballet of Canada, The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the American Ballet Studio Company, the Canadian Opera Company, Opera Hamilton and the Hong Kong Ballet. His critically acclaimed version of Romeo & Juliet led to the development of Coppélia, an international co-production between the Hong Kong Ballet and Ballet Jörgen Canada that will rotate between the two companies for a ten year period.

Born in Stockholm, Sweden, Bengt Jörgen is a graduate of the Royal Swedish Ballet School. He moved to Canada to further his studies at the National Ballet School of Canada, and from 1982-1985 he was a member of the National Ballet of Canada where he began to choreograph for the company's choreographic workshops.

For more information on Bengt Jörgen or Ballet Jörgen Canada visit [www.balletjorgen.ca](http://www.balletjorgen.ca).

## **About Ballet Jörgen Canada**

Ballet Jörgen Canada gives over 120 performances a year, taking ballet to a wide range of rural based, urban and inner-city communities. A third of their annual performances are in the City of Toronto where the company is based. This year, the company will present its third annual Ballet in the Park program in Toronto, providing free outdoor programming of full-scale classical ballets in an audience-friendly environment at Etienne Brule Park. In partnership with George Brown College, the company presents Ballet in the Studio which introduces ballet in an intimate environment.

In addition to contemporary works and full-length classical ballets they have specialized in reaching young Canadians with performances created especially for children. Every production available of these works is sold out and has helped Ballet Jörgen Canada to be in the forefront of engaging young audiences.

## **About Ballet Jörgen Canada's *Cinderella***

This ballet by Bengt Jörgen is an innovative take on the classic fairy tale. Jörgen's choreography takes us through the misfortunes and fortunes of Cinderella and her stepsisters. Cinderella is tormented by her sisters until her life is changed by the appearance of an old woman, a seed and magical fairies. When Cinderella wins the hand of her prince, her stepsisters find their world turned upside down. Framing the action are sets by Glenn Davidson that create a fantastical environment based on the idea of the natural world reclaiming man-made structures. Costume designs by Robert Doyle playfully echo each character's personality.

***Cinderella* runs February 4<sup>th</sup> at ACT in Maple Ridge.  
Tickets available by phone 604-476-2787**

**Reference:**

Katie Weber

Communications Associate

Goh Ballet Academy

T: 604-872-4014 ext. 217

F: 604-872-4011

[kweber@gohballet.com](mailto:kweber@gohballet.com)