

A moment with Chan Hon Goh, one of Canada's most prolific Prima Ballerinas



Goh Ballet

This month, Goh Ballet is launching its first Canadian ballet master class series. The master classes will be run by Chan Hon Goh, one of Canada's most prolific Prima Ballerinas and current director of the Goh Ballet.

During her illustrious 20 year stage career, Chan 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 2005, she also received the New Pioneers Arts Award for her contributions to dance in Canada.

Most recently, in May 2013, Chan 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.

We've caught up with Chan to learn more about this new master class series.

What is this master class series?

Our master class series, presented by De Beers Diamond Jewellers, will take place in April 2014, and provides a rare opportunity for aspiring dancers aged 12 and up.

Participants will enhance their professional training and receive motivational coaching that focuses on artistic expression and the classical repertoire.

Why have you launched this series?

This nationwide 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.

Where will the master classes take place?

The master classes will be hosted in nine cities including Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Kelowna, Nanaimo and Vancouver. The Nanaimo master class will take place on Sunday, April 13th and the Vancouver master class will take place on Friday, April 25th.

How do people sign up to participate?

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.

I've heard participants can win a scholarship. Is this true?

Yes. There will be two National Scholarship Awards, sponsored by the German Auto Import Network – Vancouver Island. These are worth \$2,500 each. One award is dedicated for the Pique category for students ages 12 to 15 years and the other is awarded in the Jete category for students ages 16 and up.

The award will be given to the most deserving student based on their talent, potential and performance in class. The scholarship program will take place in the summer 2014. It is important for a scholarship component to be made available so that talented students are not deprived of opportunities to further their development due to financial constraints.

Please can you tell us about your history?

I was born in Beijing and immigrated with my family to Vancouver, where I studied in the professional program at the Goh Ballet Academy.

Upon graduation in 1988, I joined The National Ballet of Canada and have been a Principal Dancer since 1994. I danced my 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.

I'm now a producer, teacher, arts advocate and mother. I currently direct all aspects of operations for the Goh Ballet and play a key role as Executive Producer for the Goh Ballet's critically acclaimed production of The Nutcracker.

I'm very much looking forward to our first master class series, and meeting the next generation of dancers across Canada.

