

25 YEARS OF  
DIVERSITY IN HARMONY



For Immediate Release

## **Ballet Creole opens Silver Anniversary Season in ONE WEEK, with critically-acclaimed, *SOULFUL MESSIAH***

(November 21, 2014; Toronto, Ontario) – Celebrating 25 years as Toronto’s top contemporary dance company which embraces an African-Caribbean aesthetic, Ballet Creole opens this milestone season with its Holiday gift to Toronto, ***SOULFUL MESSIAH***. The uplifting, multicultural celebration that is *Soulful Messiah*, has been electrifying the annual holiday season for the past 12 years, and this year will return to the Fleck Dance Theatre for two nights only, **Friday November 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup>**, as part of Harbourfront Centre’s NextSteps Series.

*Soulful Messiah* continues to thrill generations young and old with its eclectic mix of dance and music genres that uplift the spirit and has made Soulful a family favourite. **Artistic Director and Choreographer Patrick Parson has created a brand new section for the production this year**, with dancers for the piece sourced from Ballet Creole’s community classes and a community outreach initiative.

*“Soulful Messiah has been supported over the years by a strong community. People love this production and we’ve heard time and time again from our audience that the energy, music, and atmosphere makes them want to get up and dance! Since this is such a special year for us, we thought we’d do something special with the community by creating this new piece and actually give people the opportunity to dance with Ballet Creole”* says General Manager, Natassia Parson.

Music lovers will enjoy the award-winning soundtrack; Quincy Jones’ soulful take on the classic Handel’s Messiah, while dance lovers will love the mixing of dance styles, including the talents of Guest Tapper **David Cox** (STOMP, 3x gold medalist at World Tap Dance Championships). Lighting director **Brad Trenaman** (Associated Designers of Canada, CATS) sets the stage for this home-grown holiday tradition to delight audiences in November 2014.

### **Show Details**

***Soulful Messiah***, presented by Ballet Creole as part of Harbourfront Centre’s NextSteps Series

**When:** Friday November 28<sup>th</sup> at 8pm; Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and 8pm

**Where:** Fleck Dance Theatre, 207 Queen’s Quay West, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Queen’s Quay Terminal

**Ticket Info:** \$25 - \$45 (student/senior rates available). Call Harbourfront Centre box office for details at 416.973.4000 or online at <http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com/nextsteps/ballet-creole-3/>

### **Ballet Creole’s 2014/2015 season is generously supported by:**

Public funders – Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, Business for the Arts, Canadian Heritage

Presenters – NextSteps 14 | 15

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### **About Ballet Creole:**

Active on the Canadian dance scene since August 1990, Ballet Creole has been hailed as *“one of Toronto’s top dance companies...always embracing a cultural heritage and the modern-dance repertoire”* (Paula Citron, *Dance Critic*). Their high-energy works range from African ritualism to abstract modern, with a repertoire driven by the rhythm of the drums.

While focusing on traditional and contemporary performing arts of the Caribbean and Africa, Ballet Creole aims to establish a dynamic new artistic tradition in Canada based on a “creolization”, or fusion, of diverse dance and music traditions. The organization comprises both a professional ensemble of dancers and musicians and a School of Performing Arts, both under the direction of Artistic Director and Founder, Patrick A. Parson.

For more information on Ballet Creole visit [www.balletcreole.org](http://www.balletcreole.org).

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