

For Immediate Release

**TORONTO DANCE COMPANY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS AS  
CANADA'S FORERUNNERS OF BLACKS IN DANCE**

***Agua Como Vida*, Ballet Creole's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season offering  
at the Harbourfront Centre, April 17 – April 18 2015**



Ballet Creole in Patrick Parson's *The Ripple Effect* (2014), Patrick Parson's *Saraka* (2005), and Gabby Kamino's *Requiem for My Parents* (2010). Photos by Christopher Cushman, David Hou, and Peter Stipcevich.

(March 17, 2015; Toronto, Ontario) – Artistic Director Patrick Parson and the Ballet Creole Dance Company invite audiences of all ages to celebrate the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Company this spring**. Presented as part of the Harbourfront Centre's NextSteps Series, ***Agua Como Vida*** commemorates a special milestone with new contemporary dance works by Founder and Artistic Director Patrick Parson and Associate Choreographer Gabby Kamino, **Friday April 17 and Saturday April 18 at the Fleck Dance Theatre**.

The brainchild of accomplished dancer, musician, choreographer, lecturer, and teacher - Patrick A. Parson - Ballet Creole has produced high quality performance art for the past decade and a half, renown in the dance world for their innovative mix of contemporary techniques with African-Caribbean traditions. The company will present two new works this April:

*Agua Como Vida* will feature **The Ripple Effect**, a work in progress which was showcased in Ballet Creole's May 2014 Season. The work is being renewed and completed for its full debut this Spring 2015. *The Ripple Effect*, accompanied by live percussion, keyboard, and spoken word, explores the many properties of water, as well as philosophies inspired by water such as the Butterfly Effect.

**Associate Choreographer Gabby Kamino** has been an integral part of the Ballet Creole artistic team since its infancy. Mrs. Kamino's new work will be a complementary piece to Parson's *Ripple Effect*, using as her inspiration the movement of the ocean and driftwood on the beach. A group piece set to several arias; Mrs. Kamino creates abstract moving sculpture on the dancers' bodies, in a stirring choreographic showcase of the technical and emotional range of the Ballet Creole Company.

Audiences are invited to come and see why Ballet Creole is hailed as "*one of Toronto's top dance companies...always embracing a cultural heritage and the modern-dance repertoire*". Tickets are \$25 - \$45 (student/senior/group rates available). Call Harbourfront Centre box office for details at 416.973.4000 or online at <http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com/nextsteps/ballet-creole-4/>

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**For Press Inquiries, Photo Ops, and access to Online Image Library, contact:**  
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**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 recognized as a Company where *“multicultural traditions blend deliciously with profound theatrical expression”*. 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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