

For Immediate Release

VETERAN DANCERS HIT THE STAGE FOR BALLET CREOLE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

***Agua Como Vida*, to feature surprise appearances by Artistic Director Patrick Parson and long-time friend, Dancer/Choreographer Ronald Taylor**

(April 15, 2015; Toronto, Ontario) – **Patrick Parson, Founder and Artistic Director of Ballet Creole**, is excited to announce his triumphant return to the stage for the Company's 25th Anniversary Season. The piece will be a duet choreographed by **Associate Choreographer Gabby Kamino**, performed by Patrick and his long-time friend and colleague, **Ronald Taylor**.

Titled ***Refleksyon***, the new work is a mixed media journey through the dance careers of these two accomplished black male dancers. In a trio of vignettes, the dancers intersperse moments of movement vocabulary from their artistic careers with reflective pauses, gazing upon images of themselves in their 'glory days'. In the final section, the Ballet Creole Company dancers join them onstage to pay homage to their elders.

Adding to the commemoration is a remount of Ballet Creole's first piece, ***Fete***. It was the first original work that the company produced for the theatre in 1990, choreographed by Patrick Parson. A lively, joyful contemporary work inspired by neo-Trinidadian dance and performed to live percussion and the steelpan, the Company dancers capture the festive carnival atmosphere typical of the Caribbean.

Also on the program are two water-inspired World Premieres: Patrick Parson's ***Agua Como Vida***, featuring live percussion, keyboard, and spoken word; and Gabby Kamino's ***Myth of Atlantis***, a beautifully ethereal piece depicting lost souls in search of their humanity.

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/>

Ballet Creole's 2014/2015 season is generously supported by:

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

For Press Inquiries, Photo Ops, and access to Online Image Library, contact:
416-960-0350 x0 | marketing@balletcreole.org

About Ronald Taylor:

Ronald was born to dance. He has emerged as a leading force in black dance remaining true to his Caribbean roots and fusing his training in modern, folk, jazz and ballet to create a style, which he warmly describes as Caribbean Contemporary. His early training came from his birthplace, Trinidad, under the tutelage and mentoring of the late Astor Johnson, choreographer of the Repertory Dance Theatre. He is a graduate of Juilliard School in New York City and received a scholarship to the Dance Theatre of Harlem. He holds an MA in dance from York University. He was awarded and completed an Artist Fellowship from the Djerassi Resident Artists Foundation in California, USA. Taylor is a dance educator and has taught at the Toronto Conservatory of Music in their Youth Development Program and at York University's faculty of Fine Arts. Artistic Director of Canboulay Dance Theatre, he has choreographed for its seasons' productions. Ronald A. Taylor commissioned and curated a dance trilogy entitled 'HE..Moves', a premiere performance which celebrated the black male persona in dance. Ronald serves as the Rehearsal Director for Ballet Creole and Kashedance.

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