



For Immediate Release

**Ballet Creole celebrates Silver Anniversary Season with
a brand new section for *Soulful Messiah* and a
ground-breaking spring production, *Agua Como Vida***

(November 4, 2014; Toronto, Ontario) – After 25 years on the Toronto dance scene, resident company Ballet Creole is still passionate about sharing works which speaks to the philosophy “Diversity in Harmony Creates a New Energy”. Two very diverse yet harmonious productions lie at the centre of the company’s 25th Anniversary Season; the uplifting, multicultural celebration of *Soulful Messiah*, and the intricate and thought-provoking *Agua Como Vida*. Both will be presented as part of the NextSteps Series at the Fleck Dance Theatre in Toronto.

SOULFUL MESSIAH November 28 – 29, 2014 | Fleck Dance Theatre | Harbourfront Centre, Toronto

If you ask Ballet Creole’s returning Toronto audiences, nothing rings in their holiday season quite like *Soulful Messiah*. Now in its 13th year, *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 will be creating a brand new section for the production this year**, with dancers for the piece sourced from a community outreach initiative that will target recreational and advanced level dancers and dance lovers.

“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.

AGUA COMO VIDA April 18 – 19, 2014 | Fleck Dance Theatre | Harbourfront Centre, Toronto

Ballet Creole’s 25th anniversary Spring Season is centred around one of Earth’s most valuable resources, Water. Literally translating to “water as life”, *Agua Como Vida* will feature **new works by Associate Choreographer Gabby Kamino, Artistic Director Patrick Parson, and guest artists.**

Mr. Parson gave audiences a peek at his work-in-progress *The Ripple Effect* in the Company’s 2013/2014 season. The work will be completed, accompanied by a live score, and ready for the stage in Spring 2014.

Dance critic Paula Citron in the Globe and Mail, said that Ms. Kamino *“is noted for the emotions she pours into her dances, as well as the living sculptures she creates with the dancers’ bodies”* (Globe and Mail, April 2013).

Having recently retired from teaching secondary school, Ms. Kamino is excited to have more studio time to work with the 2014/2015 cast on a brand new choreography which will have its World Premiere in the April 2015 production. *Agua Como Vida* promises to build on the outstanding artistic legacy of Ballet Creole’s past 25 years.

Soulful Messiah and Agua Como Vida: Tickets \$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-2/>

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

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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.

For Press Inquiries, Photo Ops, and access to Online Image Library, contact:

Monica Pain, Production and Touring Manager: 416-960-0350 x0 production@balletcreole.org

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