



The Celia Franca Foundation
announces

In the Pursuit of Excellence

May 13th, 2010
For Immediate Release

Ottawa: The Celia Franca Foundation announces *In the Pursuit of Excellence*, the performance project which honours the legacy of Celia Franca, legendary dancer, choreographer and teacher. The performance by young people aged 7 to 17, takes place on Sunday, June 6 at 2:30pm, at the Fourth Stage of the National Arts Centre in collaboration with the Ottawa Citizen.

In the Pursuit of Excellence, celebrating the talents of young dancers from The School of Dance, embodies Miss Franca's love of young people, her commitment to excellence in the performing arts and her belief in the importance of performance experience in the education of artists.

Mary Jago, a special guest of the Foundation, will be teaching the young dancers some of Miss Franca's choreography. Traditionally in classical ballet, professional seasoned dancers "continue the line" as Miss Franca would say, by passing choreography down from generation to generation. During *In the Pursuit of Excellence* the audience will observe this important process in action.

Miss Jago was a Principal Ballerina with the National Ballet of Canada and now travels across the world as a much sought after Teacher, Artistic Advisor and Consultant. The Foundation is pleased that Miss Jago is able to pass Miss Franca's work onto our next generation of dancers.

"The School of Dance is honoured to participate in this event of the Celia Franca Foundation," says Merrilee Hodgins, Artistic Director of The School of Dance. "I know that Celia would be thrilled to see these talented young people performing and working with Mary Jago. She would delight in the energy radiating from the stage."

The Celia Franca Foundation was created in 1979 to honour Celia Franca's vision for excellence in arts education. For 29 years, the Foundation has quietly provided scholarships for serious young Canadians wishing to further their training in professional settings. In 2007, the Foundation expanded its mandate to include community outreach projects related to dance education.

In the Pursuit of Excellence

June 6, 2:30pm

National Arts Centre, Fourth Stage

Tickets: \$20

Please note that tickets are available exclusively at The School of Dance.

For tickets and information, please contact The School of Dance at 613-238-7838.

www.celiafrancafoundation.com

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To arrange interviews or photo sessions, please contact:

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The Celia Franca Foundation is a registered Canadian charity.

About the Celia Franca Foundation:

The Celia Franca Foundation was established in 1979 to honour Celia Franca's devotion to quality dance education in Canada. Since its inception, the Celia Franca Foundation, through sponsorships and scholarships, has quietly helped young dancers attend some of Canada's finest training institutions. The Foundation has also helped independent choreographers, researchers, and young teachers-in-training attain their goals. The Celia Franca Foundation is a registered, Canadian charity.

About Mary Jago-Romeril (Ballet Teacher / Consultant / Dance Educator):

Mary Jago is a Recipient of Her Majesty the Queen 25th Anniversary Award. Born in Sussex England, Miss Jago is a graduate of the prestigious Royal Ballet School in London England. She joined the National Ballet of Canada in 1966 and quickly rose through the ranks to become a Principal Ballerina in 1970. Well known for her leading roles in ballets such as Giselle, Sleeping Beauty, Coppelia, Don Juan, Moors Pavane, Les Sylphides, La Sylphide, Mad Shadows and Elite Syncopations, Miss Jago had a long and very rewarding career. Retiring in 1984 she joined the staff of the National Ballet as a Ballet Mistress a position she held until 1993. Now a much sought after Teacher, Artistic Advisor and Consultant, she travels across Canada passing on her knowledge to both students and teachers. In early 1998 she was approached by Ballet Jorgen to create a new Dance Programme for George Brown College, an extremely demanding and often frustrating task! By May 2001 this happily became a reality and a one year Certificate and two year Diploma Post Secondary Programme are now in place. In March 2002 Miss Jago was appointed one of two National Representatives for the Dancer Transition Resource Centre, an extremely rewarding position which requires working with both professional dancers and professional graduating students. In July 2003 Miss Jago served as interim Artistic Director for the Quinte Ballet School Summer Programme and helped form an Advisory Committee to conduct a search for a new Artistic Director. In January 2004 Miss Jago was appointed a member of the Ryerson University Artistic Advisory Council. In 2005 she adjudicated the Manitoba Dance Festival and 2006 and 2008 adjudicated the RAD Solo Seal competition. Since 2005 she has taught a free class for the Cecchetti intensive day, which occurs twice a year and in 2007 choreographed the senior solo for the CDTA competition. In 2007, 2008 and 2009 Miss Jago taught the summer programme at the Maritime Conservatory in Halifax.