

L'ÉCOLE  
SUPÉRIEURE DE

# BALLET

DU QUÉBEC

**Press Release**  
**For immediate publication**

## **A last-year student awarded a major national grant**

Montréal, September 30, 2016 — L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec is proud to announce that Étienne Gagnon-Delorme, a senior in its professional program, is the recipient of the Hnatyshyn Foundation's grant for Dance. This \$10,000 grant was awarded by a jury consisting of experts from Canada's arts community. Established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, the twenty-fourth Governor-General of Canada, the Hnatyshyn Foundation invests in and supports, at the most fundamental level, "the development of world-class artists of tomorrow."

"Étienne is an extremely gifted dancer and we've had the pleasure of working with him on the discovery of his many talents," stated Anik Bissonnette, Artistic Director of l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec. She went on to add: "This well-deserved grant is the result of several years of passion, sustained effort, and a peerless work ethic. We are delighted that he has been recognized in this way by the Hnatyshyn Foundation."

Admitted to l'École supérieure's professional dance program in 2013, Étienne has distinguished himself as both a performer and a choreographer. Last year, he joined the Grands Ballets Canadiens for the *Nutcracker* and, this fall, for Jean-Christophe Maillot's *Romeo & Juliet*.

### **About Anik Bissonnette**

As principal dancer of Montréal's Grands Ballets Canadiens for close to 17 years, Anik Bissonnette distinguished herself both at home and abroad, receiving critical acclaim for her classical technique as well as her great musical sensibility. Her career has been marked by significant distinctions, including the titles of Officer of the Order of Canada (1995) and Knight of the National Order of Québec (1996). She was awarded the Denise-Pelletier Prize in 2008 as well as the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2014. Concurrently, she served as President of the Regroupement québécois de la danse for six years. Since taking the helm of l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec in 2010, Anik Bissonnette has devoted her energies to communicating her knowledge to a new generation of dancers worthy of the finest dance companies in Québec, Canada and the world.

### **About l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec**

L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec has made it its mission to train dancers and creators meeting the highest criteria in the world of professional dance and, in the process, promote the recognition, outreach and development of dance. Founded in 1952 by Ludmilla Chiriaeff and incorporated in 1966 at the request of Québec's Ministère des Affaires culturelles, it is the standard in Québec for teaching and professional training in the field of classical dance.

L'École supérieure carries out its mission thanks to an annual grant from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec and financial support from the Department of Canadian Heritage. A member of the Association des écoles supérieures d'art de Montréal, l'École supérieure also acknowledges the collaboration of its educational partners, the Cégep

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du Vieux Montréal, the Pensionnat du Saint-Nom-de-Marie and École Saint-Joseph.

— 30 —

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