

L'ÉCOLE
SUPÉRIEURE DE
BALLET
DU QUÉBEC

Press release
For immediate publication

A “King of the Dance” to train up-and-coming Québec dancers

Montréal, January 15, 2020 — L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec is proud to announce the hiring of internationally renowned dancer and ballet master José Manuel Carreño as a professor. In addition to communicating his know-how to students in L'École supérieure's professional program in performance, he will be teaching classical ballet to Montréal dancers intent on perfecting their technique.

Trained at the Cuban National Ballet School, José Manuel Carreño first distinguished himself at international competitions before joining the English National Ballet in 1990. Three years later, he went on to become principal dancer with London's Royal Ballet, moving to the prestigious American Ballet Theatre, in that same capacity, in 1995. *The New York Times'* dance critic Anna Kisselgoff has described his performance in some of the most demanding ballets as “faultless” and “of royal perfection”, a level of excellence he maintained until 2011 when he left the company. In 2010, he took part in the world tour of *Kings of the Dance*, which showcased the top principal dancers of major ballet companies, including Québec's Guillaume Côté. José Manuel Carreño subsequently become artistic director of ballet companies and festivals in the US and Mexico.

During the course of his career, he shared the stage a number of times with the artistic director of L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec, Anik Bissonnette. The two also took part in galas of the stars in Montréal as well as in Athens, Thessalonica, and Budapest. “I am convinced that the qualities that forged his reputation make him the ideal teacher for our students and have no doubt that he will inspire them to excel,” states L'École supérieure's artistic director, Anik Bissonnette. “His extensive experience with the classical repertoire and his knowledge of the actors in the world of dance make him an invaluable asset for our establishment, which plays a leading role in Québec.”

Having recently settled in Montréal, José Manuel Carreño has already started taking French lessons. “I have fallen in love with Québec, its grandiose nature, its magnificent winter, and the warmth of its people. I am here to set down roots and contribute to the development of dance,” he asserts.

About Anik Bissonnette

As principal dancer of Montréal's Grands Ballets Canadiens for close to 18 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, the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2014 and L'Ordre de Montréal in 2018. 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.

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

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