



## **Coastal City Ballet brings the traditional classic “Giselle” to Vancouver audiences for its 6<sup>th</sup> season**

*Love, betrayal, madness, despair and forgiveness from beyond the grave come to the Vancouver stage*

VANCOUVER, BC – For the first time in ten years, the traditional classical ballet *Giselle* will be performed on the Vancouver stage. After sold-out performances of *Swan Lake* in 2016, Coastal City Ballet presents the highlight of the 2016-2017 season: the illustrious and beloved ballet *Giselle*, a Canadian premiere choreographed by Irene Schneider, on **May 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm** at **The Playhouse in Vancouver** and **June 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm** at **Surrey Arts Centre in Surrey**.

Since its Paris premiere in 1841, *Giselle* has become the epitome of ballet romanticism. *Giselle* tells of a young peasant girl betrayed by a nobleman disguised as a commoner. Unable to withstand the prince’s deception, Giselle dies of a broken heart only to join the ranks of the supernatural Wilis, restless spirits who have died before their wedding day. As vengeful as they are entrancing, the Wilis lure young men into their lair – driving them to dance until they die. In a heartfelt display of forgiveness from beyond the grave, Giselle saves her beloved from certain death at the hands of her ghostly sisters.

A haunting story of innocence and betrayal, and a timeless tale about the redemptive power of love, Irene Schneider’s *Giselle* features some of ballet’s most dramatic scenes and otherworldly images. The diverse talents of Coastal City Ballet along with the beautiful score of Aldolphe Adam, glorious costumes and imaginative sets brings this heart wrenching love story to life. This full length masterpiece is one not to be missed and will be enjoyed by both young and old alike.

**Li Yaming, Artistic Director of Coastal City Ballet**, is excited to stage this ambitious ballet in the company’s sixth season. “Vancouver audiences have such limited opportunity to see the traditional story ballets. After sold-out performances of *Swan Lake* it was clear to me that Coastal City Ballet provides a much-needed glimpse into the arts. I was determined to mount such a traditional classic again this season. *Giselle* has long been one of my favorite ballets and I’m overjoyed that Vancouver will experience it as well,” says Li.

**Irene Schneider, former Artistic Director of Magdeburg Ballet said:** “A long friendship has kept me in touch with Li Yaming, Artistic Director. Coming back to Coastal City Ballet to remount *Giselle* is like coming home.”

### **About Irene Schneider**

Irene Schneider is an independent choreographer who has created over 60 ballets presented in numerous Opera houses in Germany and throughout the world. After



finishing her professional ballet career, primarily with Stuttgart Ballet, Ms. Schneider began teaching and choreographing. Her career led her to Magdeburg Ballet where she was Artistic Director for fifteen years. Irene Schneider's first commission for Coastal City Ballet was in 2012, when she choreographed the world premiere ballet *Hansel and Gretel*. She has since returned to choreograph *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Coppelia*, *Cinderella*, and *Swan Lake*.

### **About Coastal City Ballet**

Coastal City Ballet is a repertory ballet company, based in Vancouver, that provides performance opportunities for emerging dancers, both Canadian and international. Coastal City Ballet's repertoire ranges from original story ballets to classical and commissioned contemporary works by established international choreographers.

Since its conception in September 2011, Coastal City Ballet has successfully presented eleven productions to audiences in greater Vancouver and Regina, Saskatchewan including six full-length story ballets as well as the staging of classical excerpts and commissioned world premieres and choreographies by Wen Wei Wang, Ben Stevenson, Joshua Beamish, Erica Trivett, Farley Johansson, and Artistic Director, Li Yaming, among others.

To learn more about Coastal City Ballet:

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### **LISTING INFORMATION: COASTAL CITY BALLETT PRESENTS 'Giselle'**

#### **Vancouver**

Date: May 19th 2017 at 8:00 pm  
Ticket prices: From \$29.95- \$59.95 with discounts for Groups of 10 or more  
Address: The Vancouver Playhouse, 600 Hamilton Street, Vancouver, BC  
Box Office: <https://www.vtixonline.com/604.241.7292>  
Vancouver Playhouse 604.665.3050

#### **Surrey**

Date: June 9th, 2017 at 8:00 pm  
Ticket prices: From \$35.00 - \$42.00 with discounts for Groups of 10 or more  
Address: Surrey Arts Centre, 13750 88 Ave, Surrey, BC  
Box Office: 604.501.5566  
<https://tickets.surrey.ca/TheatreManager/1/online?performance=3982>