



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Vancouver's Newest Ballet Company Presents an
Inaugural Evening of Classics & New Works**

Coastal City Ballet makes its debut with 'Paquita and Mixed Repertoire'

A Division of Pacific DanceArts

VANCOUVER, BC – **Coastal City Ballet**, a recently launched pre-professional ballet company, established in the fall of 2011, opens their inaugural season with ***Paquita and Mixed Repertoire, November 18, 2011 at The ACT in Maple Ridge and November 25, 2011 at The Kay Meek Centre in West Vancouver.*** The program will include excerpts from the Spanish brilliance of Petipa's *Paquita*, Rachmaninov's *Three Preludes* choreographed by former Houston Ballet Artistic Director Ben Stevenson, coupled with mixed repertoire from Charlene Hart, Farley Johansson, and Coastal City Ballet Artistic Director, Li Yaming.

"Coastal City Ballet was founded to develop and hone the talents of young, aspiring dancers, preparing them for a career on the professional stage," says Li Yaming, Artistic Director. "Its members experience every aspect of life in a major ballet company: daily class, rehearsal, and full-scale performance in professional venues. What's more, they have the opportunity to work with our incredible staff and guest teachers from around the globe, including ballet masters from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Houston Ballet, Texas Ballet Theatre, Atlanta Ballet, as well as leading contemporary dance artists from within Vancouver and beyond."

To introduce Vancouver to the remarkable talent and diversity of the Coastal City Ballet, whose 15 dancers are both locally trained, but come from as far away as Brazil, China, and Japan, the company will present two evenings of beloved classics and new works. Anchoring the performance will be selections from Petipa's *Paquita*, staged by Joy Munk.

Also on the bill is Former Houston Ballet Artistic Director and current Texas Ballet Theatre Artistic Director Ben Stevenson's *Three Preludes*, set to music by Rachmaninov. This highly technical and athletically demanding work will showcase the precision, artistry, and classical form of the company. Li Anlin, Assistant to the Artistic Director at Texas Ballet Theatre, and longtime collaborator with Ben Stevenson, will set the work on the company.

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The evening will also feature new work from Charlene Hart, a Top Ten Finalist in season three of *So You Think You Can Dance Canada*, Farley Johansson, celebrated local dancer/choreographer and Co-Artistic Director of Science Friction, and Coastal City Ballet Artistic Director Li Yaming.

The company's dancers were carefully selected following a highly competitive June audition. Many individuals relocated to Vancouver to participate, and have been training full-time at the Coastal City Ballet studios since early fall 2011.

In its inaugural season, the classical company will be mounting two productions; this November's *Paquita and Mixed Repertoire* and a to-be-announced story ballet in the spring of 2012.

Coastal City Ballet is sponsored by Ballet Productions Canada Society.
www.balletproductions.ca

About Coastal City Ballet

Coastal City Ballet is a pre-professional ballet company located in Vancouver, BC, providing young dancers with professional-level performance and training opportunities in preparation for a career in dance. Company members maintain a rigorous training schedule modeled on that of professional ballet company with daily class, rehearsals, and scheduled performances throughout the season.

Coastal City Ballet's repertoire includes neoclassical and classical ballet commissions, as well the development of story ballets, and contemporary works.

The artistic staff is led by Artistic Director Li Yaming, and is comprised of well-known and highly respected dance professionals from throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. Coastal City Ballet is honored to have Johnny W. Chang, of Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, among others, on its Artistic Advisory Committee.

Learn more at: www.coastalcityballet.com

About Li Yaming, Coastal City Ballet Artistic Director

Li began his ballet training at the Beijing Dance Academy at the age of 11, joined the resident ballet company and was quickly promoted to Principal dancer. In 1988, Li immigrated to Canada and was invited by Lawrence Gradus to join the Theatre Ballet of Canada, in Ottawa.

Li has since performed extensively across the United States, Canada, and parts of Europe, performing an extensive repertoire of roles and world premiere dance works. He has studied and worked with international artists such as Ben Stevenson, Lynn Seymour, Rudolf Nureyev, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Celia Franca, Anne Williams, Sulamith Messerer, Karen Kain, and Olga Evreinoff.

Li began teaching while at the Beijing Dance Academy, completing a Major in Dance Education, and has since taught in Canada, Japan, Mexico, Brazil, and the United States. He was Company Teacher for the Ottawa Ballet and has taught at the Quinte Ballet School, Simon Fraser University, and the National Ballet of Canada, among others.

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LISTING INFORMATION

**COASTAL CITY BALLET PRESENTS
PAQUITA & MIXED REPERTOIRE**

MAPLE RIDGE

Date: Friday, November 18, 2011 at 8pm
Ticket prices: \$32 Adults, \$20 Students/Seniors
Address: ACT Maple Ridge
11944 Haney Place
Maple Ridge, BC
Box Office: www.theactmapleridge.org or 604.476.2787
Website: www.coastalcityballet.com

WEST VANCOUVER

Date: Friday, November 25, 2011 at 8pm
Ticket prices: \$35 Adults, \$22 Students/Seniors
Address: The Kay Meek Centre
1700 Mathers Avenue
West Vancouver, B.C.
Box Office: www.kaymeekcentre.com or 604.913.3634
Website: www.coastalcityballet.com

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