



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Coastal City Ballet Brings a Balletic *Hansel and Gretel* to Maple Ridge & North Vancouver

*New full-length ballet lends a playful and charming spirit
to the classic Grimm Brothers' tale*

VANCOUVER, BC – **Coastal City Ballet**, a pre-professional ballet company established in the fall of 2011, presents its newly commissioned storybook classic *Hansel & Gretel*, **May 5 at 7:30pm at The ACT in Maple Ridge** and **May 6 at 2pm at The Centennial Theatre in North Vancouver**. Adapted from composer Engelbert Humperdinck's celebrated opera, the enchanting full-length ballet is choreographed by the much sought-after Irene Schneider, former Artistic Director of Germany's Magdeburg Ballet, and features students from throughout the Lower Mainland.

"Often when audiences think of ballet, they envision the grand, romantic, and tragic works like *Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*," says Li Yaming, CCB Artistic Director. "This misses out on an incredible tradition of light-hearted and comic ballets, such as *Coppélia* and *La Fille Mal Gardée*. CCB is therefore delighted to contribute to this whimsical balletic legacy by presenting the magic and enchantment of *Hansel & Gretel*."

Perfect for families and children of all ages, Coastal City Ballet's full-length version of the cautionary tale features an imaginative set, fantastical costumes, and the hauntingly beautiful music of Humperdinck's beautiful opera. The ballet will be brought to life by the Coastal City Ballet company dancers, as well as local dance students from throughout the Lower Mainland who auditioned for the opportunity to dance alongside aspiring dance artists.

The classical production tells the timeless story of a brother and sister-duo who get lost in the woods and stumble upon a delectable house made of gingerbread. Hansel and Gretel are soon helping themselves, unaware they are falling into a Witch's trap.

To create the work's playful choreography, Coastal City Ballet has commissioned Irene Schneider, former Artistic Director of Germany's Magdeburg Ballet. The internationally recognized dance icon will be in Canada to create the work for the company this April.

About Coastal City Ballet

Coastal City Ballet is a pre-professional ballet company located in Vancouver, BC, providing young aspiring dancers with professional-level performance and training opportunities in preparation for a career in dance. Company members maintain a

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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

LISTING INFORMATION

COASTAL CITY BALLET PRESENTS *HANSEL & GRETEL*

MAPLE RIDGE

Date: Saturday, May 5, 7:30pm

Ticket prices: \$32 Adults, \$20 Students/Seniors
Group discounts available

Address: ACT Maple Ridge
11944 Haney Place
Maple Ridge, BC

Box Office: www.theactmapleridge.org or 604.476.2787

NORTH VANCOUVER

Date: Sunday, May 6, 2:00pm

Ticket prices: \$32 Adults, \$20 Students/Seniors
Group discounts available

Address: Centennial Theatre
2300 Lonsdale Avenue
North Vancouver, BC V7M 3L1

Box Office: www.centennialtheatre.com or 604.984.4484

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