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THE  
NATIONAL  
**Ballet**  
OF CANADA

Karen Kain  
Artistic Director

2016/17

Media Release



## Rolex Dancers First Award Winners: Piotr Stanczyk and Hannah Fischer

September 19, 2016... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada announced today that Principal Dancer **Piotr Stanczyk** and Second Soloist **Hannah Fischer** are the recipients of the Rolex *Dancers First* Award. Ms. Kain and **Victor Royce**, President and CEO of Rolex Canada Ltd. presented the award at a dinner and presentation in Toronto last night.

The Rolex *Dancers First* Award recognizes outstanding performances in the previous season and is juried by a committee of members of the National Ballet's Artistic Staff. Ms. Fischer and Mr. Stanczyk are recognized for their portrayals of Hermione and Leontes in *The Winter's Tale*. Both were awarded \$3,000 and a work by glass artist Elizabeth Beecham of Glasstronomy Studios.

"Hannah Fischer, opening night's Hermione, glowed with a pure inner light as she defended her innocence with carefully calibrated and poignantly expressive arabesque turns....Piotr Stanczyk as Leontes almost self-combusted as his body writhed in paroxysms of jealousy and vengeful anger." Toronto Star

The *Dancers First* programme supports all the dancers of the National Ballet with funds for artistic development and health and wellness resources. Currently, there are 24 generous donors who are members of *Dancers First*.

This is the seventh year that the award has been sponsored by Rolex Canada. Since its inception, Rolex has always encouraged individual excellence and the pursuit of perfection. In keeping with this long tradition, Rolex continues to contribute to the arts world through its various sponsorship activities.

The Rolex *Dancers First* Award is presented by Rolex Canada Ltd.

Lead philanthropic support for *The Winter's Tale* is provided by The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, Richard M. Ivey, C.C., an anonymous friend of the National Ballet and The Producers' Circle.

The Producers' Circle: Gail & Mark Appel, John & Claudine Bailey, Inger Bartlett & Marshal Stearns, David Binet, Susanne Boyce & Brendan Mullen, Gail Drummond & Bob Dorrance, The Thor E. and Nicole Eaton Family Charitable Foundation, Sandra Faire & Ivan Fecan, Kevin & Roger Garland, Emmanuelle Gattuso and Allan Slaight, The William & Nona Heaslip Foundation, Rosamond Ivey, Hal Jackman Foundation, Anna McCowan-Johnson & Donald K. Johnson, O.C., Judy Korthals & Peter Irwin, Judith & Robert Lawrie, Mona & Harvey Levenstein, Joan & Jerry Lozinski, The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain, C.C., Julie Medland, Sandra Pitblado & Jim Pitblado, C.M., Lynda & Jonas Prince, Susan Scace & Arthur Scace, C.M., Q.C., Gerald Sheff & Shanitha Kachan, Sandra Simpson and Noreen Taylor, C.M. & David Staines, C.M., O.Ont

Hannah Fischer is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Judy & Bella Matthews.

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Piotr Stanczyk and Hannah Fischer in *The Winter's Tale*. Photo by Karolina Kuras.

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