

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS &  
CULTURAL CENTRE SOCIETY  
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High resolution photos: [Dancer Leaping](#), [Pink Dancers](#)  
Photo Description: Red dress leaping bent backwards, 2 dancers-pink dress  
Photo Credit: n/a

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## THE HEART OF DANCE CELEBRATES VALENTINE'S DAY

CHILLIWACK, BC - One of the ten great ballet companies of the world, **The National Ballet of Cuba** presents 29 amazing dancers in a program entitled ***The Magic of Dance*** on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2012 at 8:00 PM at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre, part of a first ever Western Canada tour. Take your sweetheart out for an extraordinary magical evening this Valentine's Day, paired with one of the fine restaurants in town participating in our **Dinner and a Show**, this beautiful ballet treat will charm any sweetheart. A feast for the eyes, this great performance showcases the company's amazing ability with excerpts from the world's most famous ballets including ***The Nut Cracker*** and ***Don Quixote***. Experience one of the most legendary companies in its Western Canadian Debut! Reserve your seat today! Call 604.391.SHOW(7469).

Founded in 1948 by **Alicia Alonso**, one of the most celebrated ballerinas for over five decades, **The National Ballet of Cuba** has truly reached international stardom and is considered one of the world's most renowned classical ballet companies. **Alonso** has combined a true sense of romanticism with a Latin boldness of feeling, and the suppleness and high extensions of the Russian dance. Choreographed by this legendary 20th Century ballet icon and ballet company founder, ***The Magic of Dance*** showcases this uniquely Cuban style of dance recognized for producing dancers of the highest technical and emotional ability. Transforming the traditional repertoire **Alonso** fosters a strong choreographic movement with works that rank among the most significant achievements of contemporary ballet choreography. This ballet will lift the audience into this enchanting world through dance, a pure delight for the senses.

**The National Ballet of Cuba** will set the stage ablaze as they perform, showcasing the unique beauty and technical fortitude of this world-class international ensemble as they combine joyful Cuban sensuality with the superb classical nature of Russian classical ballet technique in ***The Magic of Dance***. A rare treat to see an international company of this stature performing in BC, communities such as Victoria, Nanaimo, Kelowna, Banff, Alberta and Chilliwack are part the 2012 tour and will be witness to an incredible show.

“Technical fireworks with brilliant charm and awesome ease” states the DAILY TELEGRAPH

Classical ballet is the most formal of dance techniques and is best known for amazing features, showcasing such moves as pointe work, turn-out of the legs, high extensions and graceful, flowing, precise movements. With fans in Paris, London and New York having had the opportunity to see these extraordinarily talented dancers, audiences around the world have responded enthusiastically to this Ballet troupe as they leap onto the stage, illustrating the gravity defying abilities that have landed the company in the top rank of the world's ballet institutions, and now Chilliwack... it's your turn!

THE NEW YORK TIMES *reported "Brilliant dancers seems to be the norm in the National Ballet of Cuba, which regularly produces international stars"*.

Through **The National Ballet of Cuba** and its network of schools, Alicia and her husband Fernando have improved upon the traditional repertoire. Establishing a ballet school to create a strong artistic vision and promote the talents of young Cuban dancers, Alonso set a tradition of Romantic and Classical excellence while encouraging the development of new choreography. The excellent training and individual coaching the dancers receive from the dedicated teachers at the famed ballet school have established the solid classical foundation that makes them the world-class dancers they are today. Recognized for dancers of the highest technical and emotional ability, **The National Ballet School** turns out 40 professionals a year.

Based in **The Great Theatre of Havana**, located in the Paseo del Prado, Cuba, **The National Ballet of Cuba** has an amazing environment to foster their stunning performances. This historical theatre, opening officially in 1838, is also the gracious host for the International Ballet Festival of Havana. This is where ballets are born and christened with the Latin flare, making **The National Ballet of Cuba** unique in the ballet world.

Earning worldwide acclaim, **The National Ballet of Cuba** has created more than 600 works and performed in over 60 countries receiving hundreds of international awards. Under the leadership of the renowned Alonso, who at age 88 is still at the helm, **The National Ballet of Cuba** ranks as one of the great ballet companies today, making Cuban-trained dancers now marquee names in some of the top ballet companies throughout the world.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to witness the legendary ballet company in action when they grace the Main Stage in ***The Magic of Dance*** on Valentine's Day!

Purchase your tickets early for this visual treat by calling the Centre Box Office at 604.391.SHOW(7469) or visit the friendly agents Monday-Friday 9:30am-9:00pm, Saturday & Sunday 9:30am-5:00pm. Tickets are also available online at [www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca](http://www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca).

### **Additional Information**

[National Ballet of Cuba website](#) [YouTube](#) [Alicia Alonso](#)

#### ***For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:***

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Single tickets are now on sale for ***Magic of Dance*** through the Centre Box Office. Contact the Centre Box Office in person (Mon-Fri, 9:30am-9:00pm, Sat & Sun, 9:30am-5:00pm), by phone at 604.391.SHOW(7469), or online at [www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca](http://www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca).

### **Chilliwack Cultural Centre**

Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the new Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, and offices, and is the new home to the Chilliwack Academy of Music and the Chilliwack Arts Council. Other partners in the project include The City of Chilliwack, The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association, and The Chilliwack Players Guild.

#### ***Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:***

- 597 seat performance theatre
- 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space
- Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)
- 21 music instructional rooms
- Arts and crafts studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

### **Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society Board of Directors**

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## **Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society Partners**

Chilliwack Academy of Music  
Chilliwack Arts Council  
Chilliwack Players Guild  
Chilliwack Visual Artists Association

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