

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS &
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High Resolution photo: [kevin_final_2_4C](#)

Photo Description: Saniya Abilmajineva as Juliet and Hiroto Saito as Romeo

Photo Credit: Photograph by Kevin Vagg

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BALLET JORGEN RETURNS WITH ANOTHER JEWEL - ROMEO & JULIET

CHILLIWACK, BC – Chilliwack fell in love with **Ballet Jörgen** when they came to town last year performing *Swan Lake* and the Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society is thrilled to welcome them back on **February 1** with their newest ballet interpretation, the classic romantic tale of *Romeo and Juliet*. Perfect for a pre-Valentine's Day evening to put your sweetheart in the romantic mood! Treat yourself and that special someone to the enchanting beauty of ballet when this incredible dance troupe returns to Chilliwack.

Masterfully transformed into Ballet Jörgen's magical world of ballet Shakespeare's timeless tale of love, anguish, and revenge is a visual delight that feels like a piece of theatre. One of Shakespeare's most popular plays, the classic tale of *Romeo & Juliet* has inspired the imagination of many an artist over the centuries and this production is no exception. Creating

works that overflow with intimacy and warmth while still remaining true to the original plot, **Ballet Jörgen's** artistic director, **Bengt** has created a stunningly beautiful and emotionally-driven ballet that is inspired by the raw emotion of *Romeo and Juliet*. The choreography captures the agonizing passion of the young lovers through movement as dancers express the euphoria of new love, the agony of quarrelling families, and the heartbreaking despair felt by the lovers at the prospect of life without each other. Shifting between comedy and tragedy, heightening the tension, audience members will be drawn into the classic tale of these young star crossed lovers as they struggle to find a solution to their plight.

Bengt Jörgen's interpretation of this timeless classic has won international recognition and critical acclaim as the ballet has been showcased in major cities and communities across Canada, the United States, and China. His engaging perspective on this story of love and the innocence of youth has created a dramatically intelligent dance production while still remaining faithful to the characters and storyline of Shakespeare's play.

"Bengt Jörgen focuses his dramatic lens on the title characters' love and creates an abundance of inventive pas de deux choreography, enchantingly danced." - Lisa Jo Sagolla,
Backstage Weekly, New York

Recognized by the National Arts Centre for its leadership role in the development of touring classical ballet across Canada, **Ballet Jörgen Canada** is known for the innovation, warmth, humour and beauty in its works. Continuing to reach out to more communities across the country than any other Canadian dance company, the troupe consistently tours the finest in new and classic productions to every area of the country. Seeking to advance the art and appreciation of ballet and Canadian choreography through performance, educational experiences and outreach for over 25 years, **Ballet Jörgen Canada** gives over 120 performances per year, sharing the art of dance with over 50,000 people.

"Shakespeare ballet woos the audience."

- Jason Gagliardi, The Hong Kong Sunday Morning Post

Come and enjoy this breathtaking performance as the plight of these ill-fated lovers is portrayed through dance. Call the Centre Box Office at 604-391-SHOW(7469) or visit www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca

Romeo & Juliet is generously sponsored by Little Mountain Greenhouses, Sutton Showplace Realty, McLean's Funeral Services Ltd., The Chilliwack Times, Best Western, City of Chilliwack, Department of Canadian Heritage, British Columbia Arts Council and The Province of British Columbia.

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Additional Information

[Ballet Jorgen's website](#)

"Romeo & Juliet returned with great force with performances in Québec and Ontario this past fall season. Saniya Abilmajineva debuted in the role of Juliet to standing ovations, together with Hiroto Saito as Romeo and Daniel Da Silva and Yoo Sang Hong alternating as Mercutio. The entire company mesmerized audiences with exquisite dancing and dramatic flair. **Romeo & Juliet** will begin its cross-country tour in Duncan, BC this January and finishing in St. John's Newfoundland in April. I hope you can join us at one of our upcoming performances." – Bengt Jørgen, Artistic Director & CEO

For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:

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Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, offices, and is home to the Chilliwack Academy of Music and the Chilliwack Art Gallery. Since opening in 2010, over 150,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding 2,000,000. The Centre is overseen by The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City, and boasts The Chilliwack Academy of Music, The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association and The Chilliwack Players Guild as partners.

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

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