

## **BALLET JÖRGEN CANADA WINS BC TOURING COUNCIL AWARD 2009 TOURING COMPANY OF THE YEAR**

### For Immediate Release

*April 3, 2009. Toronto Ontario...* **Bengt Jörgen**, Artistic Director & CEO of **Ballet Jörgen Canada**, is pleased to announce that Ballet Jörgen Canada has won the **BC Touring Council's 2009 Touring Company Of The Year Award**. The Annual Awards presentation was held at the Pacific Contact booking conference and tradeshow on March 29, 2009, in Burnaby, British Columbia. Cameron Smillie, Director of Touring, was in attendance to accept the award on behalf of the company.

"Nominations for Touring Artist/Company Of The Year were made from member presenters and is awarded to an artist or company who toured BC within the past year, demonstrates artistic excellence in their discipline and brings the highest degree of professionalism in touring," said the BC Touring Council.

Ballet Jörgen Canada went to B.C. in March 2008, on its premiere national tour of *Anastasia* for the 2007-2008 season. The company returned to B.C. this past February with its production of *Romeo & Juliet*, which premiered on February 27, 1998, and has since been showcased in major cities and communities across Canada, the United States, and China to international recognition and critical acclaim.

"We are extremely honoured to receive this award. Ballet Jörgen Canada's first public performance took place in Vancouver in 1987 and we are delighted that our work throughout British Columbia has been recognized. Today we serve the province on an annual basis and are pleased that so many communities welcome us back every year," said Bengt Jörgen.

Founded in 1987 by Bengt Jörgen and Susan Bodie to create an opportunity for Canadian choreographers and original new works in classical ballet, **Ballet Jörgen Canada** is now recognized for work that combines innovation, warmth, humour and beauty. **Ballet Jörgen Canada** is the only major Canadian ballet company with a repertoire consisting exclusively of original works. The Company tours across Canada and North America performing to almost 50,000 people. It is the second largest dance company in Ontario and the largest outside the downtown core of Toronto. **Ballet Jörgen Canada** brings dance to more communities in Ontario than any other dance company in the province and also tours to both the East and West coasts of Canada and the United States.

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### For more information, contact:

Christine Harris | Marketing & Development Coordinator | Ballet Jörgen Canada  
416 415-5000x 2886 | [marketing@balletjorgen.ca](mailto:marketing@balletjorgen.ca) | [www.balletjorgencanada.ca](http://www.balletjorgencanada.ca)

