

THE
NATIONAL
Ballet
OF CANADA

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

On Stage
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts

Mailing Address
The Walter Carse
Centre for
The National Ballet
of Canada
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Charitable
Business Number
11905 1449 RR0001

North American Premiere

Carmen

Choreography: Davide Bombana

Music: Georges Bizet, Meredith Monk, Rodion Shchedrin, José Serebrier and
Tambours du Bronx

Décor: Dorin Gal

Costume Design: Dorin Gal

Lighting Design: Dorin Gal

Sound Editing: Silvio Brambilla

Premiere: Ballet du Capitole de Toulouse, France, March 2006

Carmen is generously supported in part by Margaret Fleck & Jim Fleck, O.C. and
Gretchen & Donald Ross

Carmen & *Skin Divers* are presented as part of the third annual Luminato, Toronto
Festival of Arts + Creativity.

Performance Dates:

June 6 – 14, 2009, Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts

Davide Bombana's *Carmen* premiered in 2006 at the Ballet du Capitole de
Toulouse in France. Although there have been numerous retellings of this tragic
story, Bombana's *Carmen* is a clever and provocative re-conceptualization that
maintains the intensity and passion of the Bizet opera.

"I find *Carmen*'s plot fascinating; everything is there: a sense of fate, violence that
dominates human relationships, love which devours and destroys everything and
human isolation," says Mr. Bombana.

While maintaining an allegiance to the basic narrative of the Bizet opera, the ballet
focuses on the latent carnality and primal passions at work at the heart of the story.
Here, Escamillo is not the Torero but the bull itself – the animal symbol of male
power and fertility – inspired by Picasso's series of drawings of The Minotaur and
the virgin. By making love with the bull, Carmen not only betrays José with another
man but with the symbol of masculinity itself, ultimately leading to her death.

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Silvio Brambilla

Sound Editor, *Carmen*

Silvio Brambilla is a sound engineer and musician, as well as the head of the audio-video department at the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. He works on new technologies for opera, such as surround amplification, live electronics and the audio settings for large outdoor events.

Mr. Brambilla has worked with many people in the dance, opera and art worlds including Jeff Koons, James Ivory and Jean Paul Gaultier. He has created several CDs with DeadBurger and collaborates with various choreographers and composers including Davide Bombana, Massimo Moricone, Giorgio Mancini, Antonio Colandrea, Elizabeth Vittone and Leone Barilli.

Prior to his engagement with Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Mr. Brambilla worked with the Italian League Women's Rhythmic Gymnastics teams editing for the musical exercises.