

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Erica Hobbs
(313) 237-3403
ehobbs@motopera.org

**Michigan Opera Theatre presents Val Caniparoli's
"A Cinderella Story" with Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet**

*Ballet features 1950s twist on classic story, performed to music by Richard Rodgers
March 18-19*

Detroit, March 8, 2017 - Michigan Opera Theatre continues its spring dance season with Val Caniparoli's "[A Cinderella Story](#)," performed by Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet March 18-19 at the Detroit Opera House. The ballet features the music of Richard Rodgers and choreography reminiscent of the elegant style of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, performed with full-skirted Dior-esque costumes.

"Audiences will love this blending of familiar tunes from the American Songbook with a timeless fairytale," said MOT Artistic Director David DiChiera. "We are excited to present a new take on the traditional Cinderella story, performed by one of Canada's premiere ballet companies."

"A Cinderella Story" is set in the 1950s and tells the tale of "Nancy" and her escape from her evil step-family to find true love with Prince Charming, now called "Bob." Created by American choreographer Caniparoli, the ballet blends classical steps with midcentury dance styles, performed to swing adaptations of Rodgers' music.

"We are very pleased to bring 'A Cinderella Story' to Detroit for the first time. It is always incredibly well received by our audiences," said Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet Executive Artistic Director André Lewis. "The energy of the big band music along with the fun and humor of the storyline make this one of our most exhilarating performances."

Royal Winnipeg Ballet holds the double distinction of being Canada's premiere ballet company and the longest continuously operating ballet company in North America. Versatility, technical excellence and a captivating style are trademark qualities that have garnered them both critical and audience acclaim since their founding in 1939.

In addition to the performance, Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet will offer a master class the morning of the performance from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Detroit Opera House Margo V. Cohen Dance Studio. The class is open to intermediate to advanced level dance students ages 14 and up. Attendance is \$25 or free with corresponding ticket. Pre-registration is required and can be done via email at dance@motopera.org or via phone at (313) 237-3251.

The March 18 performance is dedicated in memory of Dr. Kim Lie, MOT Trustee from 1981-2017.

The 2016-17 dance season is made possible by the Lear Corporation with support from John and Marlene Boll and Matthew and Mona Simoncini.

Tickets for the ballet are \$25-\$89 and may be purchased online at www.MichiganOpera.org, by calling (313) 237-7464 or in person at the Detroit Opera House (1526 Broadway, Detroit).

For more information visit <http://www.michiganopera.org/dance/a-cinderella-story/>.

Val Caniparoli's "A Cinderella Story" with Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet

Saturday, March 18, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 19, 2:30 p.m.

At the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit

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About Michigan Opera Theatre

Michigan Opera Theatre (Wayne S. Brown, President and CEO; Dr. David DiChiera, Founder and Artistic Director), one of the nation's most vibrant nonprofit arts organizations, is committed to presenting opera and dance of the highest artistic caliber. Founded in 1971, the company's mission is to serve as a major cultural resource to the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit. Visit the website at www.michiganopera.org.

About Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet (rwb.org)

Founded in 1939, Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet holds the double distinction of being Canada's premier ballet company and one of the oldest ballet companies in North America. Versatility, technical excellence and a captivating style are the trademarks of Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, qualities that have garnered both critical and audience acclaim. RWB's superlative standards keep the Company in demand around the globe as it presents more than 150 performances every season across Canada and in the United States, South America, Europe, the Middle East, Russia, Japan, Asia and Mexico. Under the artistic direction of André Lewis for 21 years, the Company is said to have never looked more resplendent, more assured, and more ravishing.