

## GRETA HODGKINSON

### *Principal Dancer*

A native of Providence, Rhode Island, **Greta Hodgkinson** began her dance training at the Festival Ballet of Rhode Island and later attended the National Ballet School in Toronto, graduating in 1990.

Miss Hodgkinson joined The National Ballet of Canada in 1990 and was promoted to Second Soloist in 1993. Immediately following her debut as the Swan Queen/Black Swan in Erik Bruhn's **Swan Lake** in 1995 she was promoted to First Soloist. In 1996 she was promoted to Principal Dancer.

Miss Hodgkinson's many lead roles include Juliet in **Romeo and Juliet**, Princess Aurora in **The Sleeping Beauty**, Kitri in **Don Quixote**, the title roles in **Giselle** and **Manon** and in Glen Tetley's **Sphinx**, Hanna in **The Merry Widow**, Tatiana in **Onegin**, Nikiya in **La Bayadère**, Katherina in **The Taming of the Shrew**, the lead role in Balanchine's **Theme and Variations**, Terpsichore and Polyhymnia in Balanchine's **Apollo**, the lead role in **Paquita**, and the lead woman in **Voluntaries** and James Kudelka's **Pastorale**. She has also danced the role of the Parlourmaid in Tetley's **La Ronde** as well as in George Balanchine's **Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux**, the Lead Russian Girl in **Serenade** and Sanguine in **The Four Temperaments**.

In 2001 Miss Hodgkinson danced in the world premieres of Jean-Pierre Perreault's **The Comforts of Solitude** and in Matjash Mrozewski's **A Delicate Battle**. In February 2000, Miss Hodgkinson danced a lead role in Rubies in the company premiere of George Balanchine's **Jewels**. In November 2000, she created the title role in James Kudelka's **The Firebird**. In 1999, Miss Hodgkinson created the role of Odette/Odile in the world premiere of Kudelka's **Swan Lake** as well as dancing in John Alleyne's **Septet** and Dominique Dumais' **one hundred words for snow**. In 1998 Miss Hodgkinson danced in the company premiere of Kudelka's **Désir** as well as in Dumais' **the weight of absence**. In February 1997, Miss Hodgkinson danced the Summer Variation in the world premiere of Kudelka's **The Four Seasons** and in November of 1997 she paired with Rex Harrington to dance the central pas de deux in the company premiere of Kudelka's **Terra Firma**. Miss Hodgkinson danced in the company premiere of **Cruel World** in 1996. In December 1995, Miss Hodgkinson performed the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Snow Queen in the world premiere of Kudelka's **The Nutcracker**. In 1994 she danced in Glen Tetley's **Oracle** as well as in Jean Grand-Maitre's **Frames of Mind**. In 1993 Miss Hodgkinson danced the pas de deux in the company premiere of William Forsythe's **Herman Schmerman** and in John Neumeier's **Now and Then**. In 1991, she performed in the world premiere of John Alleyne's **Interrogating Slam**.

Of Miss Hodgkinson's opening night performance in the 2000 production of **Jewels**, **The Globe and Mail** wrote, "*Hodgkinson in particular pulled out all the stops. A technical dynamo, with awesome strength and plasticity, she set the stage aflame with dancing that was an incarnation of the ruby's hard, sharp edges.*"

In 2000 she received praise for her performance in **The Firebird** from **The New York Times**: "*Greta Hodgkinson was a brilliant and dynamic Firebird*".

Miss Hodgkinson's 1999 performance in Kudelka's **Swan Lake** garnered rave reviews in several newspapers. The Toronto Star described Miss Hodgkinson's Odette as "*bewitching*" and that "*her sharp delivery looks even better on the deceiving Odile, her fouettés beguiling enough to be literally a show-stopper*". National Post described her performance as "*dazzlingly seductive*". The Ottawa Citizen wrote, "*Greta Hodgkinson is a superb technician...she fills the music, moving with clarity and an elegance that gives Odette dignity. ...Hodgkinson's brilliant technique, applied at twice the pace, gives Odile seductive sparkle - she's passionate and human.*" The Edmonton Journal wrote "*The star of the show was undeniably Greta Hodgkinson. ...Her assurance, her faultless technique and her wonderfully articulate characterizations mark her as a mature and brilliant dance talent.*"

The Globe and Mail reviewing **The Nutcracker** in 1998 wrote, "*Greta Hodgkinson was a delectable Sugar Plum Fairy. Her role demands extraordinary strength and precision, and Hodgkinson delivered all with a smooth and feathery style that marked effort.*"

In reviewing **The Four Seasons** in 1997, The Globe and Mail said, "*Summer is a torrent of romantic passion with a stunning pas de deux for Rex Harrington and the peerless Greta Hodgkinson.*"

The Hamilton Spectator reviewing the performance of Kudelka's **Terra Firma** in November 1997 said, "*Rex Harrington and Greta Hodgkinson are particularly seductive in a steamy pas de deux.*"

In 2002 Miss Hodgkinson performed in the Gala of International Ballet Stars in Cincinnati. In both 2001 and 2002, Miss Hodgkinson performed in Gala des Etoiles. In 2001 Miss Hodgkinson made her debut with Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, dancing the role of Hanna in **The Merry Widow**. In 1999 she performed the Summer pas de deux from **The Four Seasons** and a pas de deux from **Tagore** for the opening of the Royal Opera House in London. In 1998 Miss Hodgkinson performed a pas de deux from James Kudelka's **Désir** and the Summer Pas de Deux from Kudelka's **The Four Seasons** at a Tribute to Ulanova in Paris. In 1997 she danced the **Grand Pas Classique** and the Summer Pas de Deux from James Kudelka's **The Four Seasons** at the Stars of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century International Ballet Gala at the Hummingbird Centre in Toronto. In 1997 Miss Hodgkinson performed the Summer pas de deux from **The Four Seasons** at the Cranko Gala for Stuttgart Ballet. In 1996 she travelled to Sydney, Australia and danced in William Forsythe's **In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated** with the Australian Ballet. In reviewing the performance, The Sydney Morning Herald said, "*Greta Hodgkinson danced the key role with dynamic flexibility that illustrated just how great the demands are on the dancers.*"

In 2000 Miss Hodgkinson was nominated for the prestigious Prix Benois de la Danse, an international award for excellence in ballet, for her role as Odette/Odile in James Kudelka's **Swan Lake**. In 2000 and 2001, Dance Europe voted her Best Performance by a Female Dancer for her interpretation of Odette/Odile in **Swan Lake** and for Summer in **The Four Seasons**. In 1993 Miss Hodgkinson, represented The National Ballet of Canada in the third Erik Bruhn Prize Competition performing **Grand Pas Classique** and **Vittoria**, a pas de deux specially created for the occasion by James Kudelka.

In 1998 Miss Hodgkinson graced the cover of Dance Magazine with a featured article, twice appeared on the cover of Dance International, and was also featured in two issues of the fashion magazine, GQ Italia.

Miss Hodgkinson's film credits include the starring role in James Kudelka's **The Firebird**, Summer in

**The Four Seasons** and a featured role in **The Rings of Saturn**.