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News release

NAC RED CARPET WELCOMES PATRONS IN HEELS, FLATS AND MORE!

OTTAWA (Canada), May 22 – Following recent controversy about guests being turned away from the Cannes Film Festival for the “audacity” of wearing flats, the National Arts Centre is pleased to remind patrons that they are welcome to wear footwear of their choice on the NAC red carpet for its upcoming Galas.

“We want our patrons to feel comfortable as they mingle with the celebrated artists who will be receiving the Governor General’s Performing Arts Award at our Gala on May 30,” said Jayne Watson, the NAC Foundation CEO. “Red-soled or rubber-soled, we know our guests will be proud to be part of the most important national celebration of the performing arts.”

Added Laureen Harper, Honorary Chair of the NAC Gala taking place on September 19, featuring world renowned pianist Lang Lang and Alexander Shelley on the podium, “Heels, flats, cowboy boots – all are welcome at the NAC Gala where the focus is on supporting young artistic talent. The artistic soul is more important than the shoe sole!”

The **Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards Gala** presented by Enbridge on May 30, and hosted by the internationally acclaimed actor Colm Feore, will pay tribute to lifetime achievement award recipients Walter Boudreau (composer, conductor and artistic director); Atom Egoyan (film and stage director, visual artist and screenwriter); Diana Leblanc (actress and director); Sarah McLachlan (singer-songwriter and humanitarian); R. H. Thomson (actor, director, producer and arts advocate); NAC Award recipient Jean-Marc Vallée (filmmaker); and Michael M. Koerner, C.M., recipient of the Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts. The evening will feature special guests offering tributes, performances and a few surprises!

The star-studded **NAC Gala** presented by CIBC on September 19 will feature superstar pianist Lang Lang, the NAC Orchestra’s new Music Director Alexander Shelley in a dazzling concert performance of some of the world’s best-loved classical works.

Tickets for the Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards Gala and the NAC Gala are available at the NAC Box Office and through Ticketmaster, 1-888-991-2787 or www.ticketmaster.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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