



## Yvonne Fernandez-Cutaran



Yvonne Fernandez-Cutaran, one of Ballet British Columbia's newest company members this season, and North Shore resident, was an early ballet bloomer, rising to principal dancer status at the age of 15 with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal - an age at which most children are still experiencing their first years of high school, and not enduring the immense pressure and rigorous schedule of a professional ballerina.

As a young child, Yvonne trained at the School of Ballet and Dance Arts in Manila, Philippines under the tutelage of Vella Damian - a key teacher Yvonne credits for shaping her incredible career. She was enrolled in her first ballet class at six. "I was a tomboy and my mom was really concerned with how I would grow up," she explains. "I had such bad posture when I was a child. I was very bowlegged and my back was not straight at all and my stomach was always hanging out."

However, it was an instant affair with the art form. "I loved it from the moment I entered class," gushes Yvonne. "I could totally lose myself in the movement."

As principal dancer with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Yvonne danced the lead in the bewitching classical ballet, *Giselle*. "I was very young when I performed *Giselle*. It was one of the ballets that I just lost myself in," she explains. "Some of the company dancers started crying during [the infamous] crazy scene, and later told me that I had touched them with my performance - that was definitely a memorable moment."

After a three-year world-tour with LaLaLa Human Steps, Yvonne bowed down from the stage, taking four-years off from performing. "I had been leading a very stressful lifestyle. I had been living from a suitcase for 13-years, touring non-stop," she recounts. "I guess I got burned out."

Thankfully for audiences, Yvonne's departure from the stage was not long lived. New not only to the beautiful North Shore, but to the westcoast as well, Yvonne's excitement is contagious as she reflects upon her decision to join the internationally respected company, Ballet British Columbia, "I am very proud to be a part of this organization. I'm very happy to know that I am a part of a talented group of dancers."

**WHO:** Yvonne Fernandez-Cutaran

**WHERE:** See her in Dominique Dumais' *the weight of absence* and Paul Taylor's smash hit *Company* 8, February 16-18 at the QET.

**TICKETS:** 604.280.3311