

Harrington takes on 'huge' dancing challenge in solo

Rex Harrington is flying solo like never before. With a hint of trepidation, the former National Ballet of Canada principal dancer will perform dancer-choreographer Peggy Baker's 30-minute solo *Brute* at The Betty Oliphant Theatre tomorrow night.

Although Harrington, a classically trained veteran, is used to dancing complex pieces, he admits *Brute* will be a "huge" challenge.

"I think I'm insane every day and I want to call it off," he says of the training he's endured thus far. "I wake up every morning with a new sore muscle and I keep finding new things in the piece.

"I'm finally at the point a week before, thank God, where I can run it without stopping or forgetting sections."

Harrington says that working with Baker on the project — set to Sergei Prokofiev's *Sonata No. 6* — was a major lure in itself. "I think what I've found fascinating working with (Baker) is that she's allowing me to be me, which is so freeing. There's not that sort of expectation of ego or anything."

Contemporary dancer Sasha Ivanochko will perform the piece the following night, offering a different interpretation of the complex

routine. Although some may question why a veteran like Harrington would choose to challenge himself to such a degree at this stage in his career, he largely dismisses the issue of age.

"I think you want to take on things that scare you the most," he says. "I asked Peggy how old she was when she did this and she said 42. I said I'm 42, so I have no excuse."

The Harrington-Baker collaboration has been so successful the two are now contemplating a tour and possible duet together.

For ticket information, visit www.artsboxoffice.ca.

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