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MEDIA RELEASE

"TransAlta Grandstand Show will dazzle and awe with 'Grand Spectacular'"

Calgary – Through the decades of the Calgary Stampede Grandstand Show, if there was one phrase that captured the evening, it was "wait until you see this." And this year goes beyond. The Calgary Stampede is thrilled to present this year's TransAlta Grandstand Show: **Grand Spectacular**, the most astonishing and exceptional Grandstand Show to date running nightly from July 8 – 17. Find out why the only way to witness Grand Spectacular is with your own eyes at the Calgary Stampede Grandstand.

The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth takes its Evening Show to a whole new level of fascinating, magnificent elegance with **Grand Spectacular**. Featuring gravity-defying acts and fearless stunts, the show merges nostalgia with contemporary performances.

One of the focal points of the show will be The Young Canadians of the Calgary Stampede, who will showcase their true talent with modernization of classic dance choreography and singing, representing Canada's next generation of artists.

"We are proud to feature The Young Canadians' talent and youthful spirit in our new show **Grand Spectacular**," says Dave Pierce, creative producer for the Grandstand Show. "The Grandstand Show has often been referred to as a spectacle that you need to see to believe, and this year we are taking it to new heights by adding daring specialty acts from around the world, as well as brand new stage effects designed specifically for **Grand Spectacular**."

The show's cast includes a talent-filled lineup of performers, including dancers from The Alberta Ballet. "It is always a thrill for us at Alberta Ballet to perform at the Calgary Stampede Grandstand Show, especially now during our upcoming 50th anniversary season," Jean Grand-Maitre, the artistic director for Alberta Ballet says. "This collaboration between our organizations has been extraordinary for all of us at the Ballet and we are filled with gratitude for this partnership."

An adaptable stage combines flames, fireworks, water effects and unbelievable digital displays. High-flying motorcycle stunts and daring acrobats create kinetic marvels. A new extreme act will see world-famous tight-rope walker Jade Kindar-Martin, who was recently the stunt double for Joseph Gordon-Levitt in the movie 'The Walk', walk across a tightrope that is on fire.

"We pay homage to over 100 years of the Calgary Stampede's spirit to create scenes that draw people from all over, and this year is certainly the main event! Our grand finale even showcases a spectacular fireworks display mixed with a stunt show that promises to dazzle our audience. There's truly something for everybody in this year's show, which is why we are calling it **Grand Spectacular**," Pierce said.

Pierce, who won an Emmy for his work as music director at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, is joined by a world-class production team.

Following the exhilarating GMC Rangeland Derby daily, the TransAlta Grandstand Show will keep your excitement soaring before the night is capped off with more than 1,000 kg of fireworks that will illuminate the Calgary sky. Tickets are on sale now starting at \$56 and can be purchased at www.calgarystampede.com/tickets.

Stampede is also releasing special ticket deal that will run for four days – two tickets for just \$99. You get more than \$50 in savings, Stampede Park entry and balcony seats. This package is available at calgarystampede.com until April 17 – look for the special Grandstand Show web banner.

For more information, please visit www.calgarystampede.com

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Limited

Box 1060, Station M, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2K8 1.800.661.1260 T 403.261.0101 F 403.265.7197 www.calgarystampede.com



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About the Calgary Stampede

The Calgary Stampede celebrates the people, the animals, the land, the traditions and the values that make up the unique spirit of the west. The Calgary Stampede contributes to the quality of life in Calgary and southern Alberta through our world-renowned Stampede, year-round facilities, western events and several youth and agriculture programs. Exemplifying the theme We're Greatest Together, we are a volunteer-supported, not-for-profit community organization that preserves and celebrates our western heritage, cultures and community spirit. All revenue is reinvested into Calgary Stampede programs and facilities.

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For more information, please contact:

Neil Hilts

Media Relations Coordinator, Community Engagement and Communications

T 403.261.0242

C 403.512.7034

E nhilts@calgarystampede.com
