



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Elevating Artistry: BalletX Delivers Unprecedented 2024-2025 Season of Creativity and Connection

Philadelphia, PA - June 4, 2024: BalletX, Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet, invites audiences on a remarkable journey of discovery and inspiration with its highly anticipated 2024-2025 Season. Powered by a vision to create extraordinary dance experiences that inspire human connection, BalletX will position itself and Philadelphia as a global center for dance, introducing groundbreaking initiatives including an expansion from a 10 to 16-member company, year-round contracts for dancers, and a move to the iconic Suzanne Roberts Theatre to support its growing and passionate audience. Season highlights include six world premieres, a full-length world premiere by Jennifer Archibald, and tours to landmark venues including The Kennedy Center, Harris Theater in Chicago, and The Joyce Theater in Manhattan.

"BalletX is embarking on a season of unparalleled artistry, commitment to community, and dedication to building human connection through dance," says **Christine Cox, Artistic & Executive Director of BalletX**. "With the support of our incredible community, we are empowered to push the boundaries of creativity and bring our vision to life on stages both near and far."

Pioneering a Year-Round Contract for Dancers and Expanding the Company

BalletX is proud to announce the launch of a year-round contract for its exceptional dancers, beginning in mid-August 2024. This investment demonstrates the company's commitment to its artists and sets a high standard of excellence in how BalletX supports its dancers. From **BalletX dancer, Francesca Forcella**: "I'm grateful for the security of a year-long contract, a rarity in the US dance world. It offers uninterrupted time for artistic growth, enhances creative processes, and provides more performance opportunities to connect with our audiences and community."

BalletX will additionally expand from 10 to 16 dancers, and is excited to introduce Mathis Joubert, Minori Sakati, Luca De-Poli, and Eileen Kim to the company.

New Performance Venue: The Suzanne Roberts Theatre

To support its growing and passionate audience, this season BalletX will perform its Center City shows at the iconic Suzanne Roberts Theatre on Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts. The company will present

three one-week performance series: Fall Series (Nov. 13-17, 2024) with a world premiere by Marguerite Donlon and the return of Matthew Neenan's *Mapping Out A Sky* and Takehiro Ueyema's *Heroes*; a Valentine's Day-infused Winter Series (Feb. 12-16, 2025) with world premieres by Caili Quan and Gregory Dawson; and Summer Series (Jul. 16-20, 2025) with world premieres by Amy Hall Garner (Toulmin Choreographer-in-Residence) and Noelle Kayser (2025 Choreographic Fellow) and the return of Neenan's *Broke Apart*. All productions will feature live music.

"We are incredibly proud and thrilled to have BalletX at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre," says **Co-Artistic Directors Taibi Mager and Tyler Dobrowsky at Philadelphia Theatre Company**. "Their work is adventurous, bold, imaginative, and exceptional. As an organization, they are a vital part of Philadelphia's art and culture scene. We welcome them with open arms."

A Full-Length World Premiere at Festival at the Mann

BalletX will produce a full-length ballet by choreographer Jennifer Archibald that takes inspiration from themes in William Golding's "Lord of the Flies." This work will feature an immersive set and projection design by Guy de Lancey, to premiere at the company's Festival at the Mann, May 2-3, 2025.

This season, BalletX takes its commitment to accessibility to the next level – all seats to the Festival at the Mann will be just \$25. BalletX aims to make this world premiere and the transformative power of dance accessible to all members of the community, fostering connections and inspiring new audiences to fall in love with contemporary ballet.

"This year, we had the pleasure of opening our 2024 season with two magnificent performances by the internationally acclaimed BalletX," says **Cathy Cahill, President and CEO of the Mann**. "They set the tone for an exciting summer of world-class arts and culture entertainment at the Mann. We are so fortunate to host BalletX for their spring residencies, and we look forward to more seasons of shared artistic excellence."

Expanding Reach and Prioritizing Community Impact

BalletX is expanding its reach regionally and nationally. The company will tour to landmark venues, including The Joyce Theater (New York, NY), The Kennedy Center (Washington, DC), Harris Theater (Chicago, IL), and the Laguna Dance Festival (Laguna, CA).

BalletX will continue its popular performance series on Philadelphia's Main Line with BalletX in Bryn Mawr, Dec. 13-15, 2024 at Bryn Mawr College.

BalletX's dedication to the community extends beyond the stage. Through initiatives such as free pop-up performances and its in-school education initiative, Dance eXchange, BalletX will continue to give back to Philadelphia and bring the arts directly to our community to enrich the lives of residents and promote inclusivity and accessibility for all.

BalletX receives lead season support from the William Penn Foundation, Wyncote Foundation, Shubert Foundation, Janet & Jim Averill, Susan & Jeff Campbell, and Neal Krouse.

BalletX's 2024-2025 Season Performances:

- BalletX at the Joyce, Sep. 25-29 at The Joyce Theater in NYC
- Fall Series, Nov. 13-17 at The Suzanne Roberts Theatre
- BalletX at Bryn Mawr, Dec. 13-15 at Bryn Mawr College
- Winter Series, Feb. 12-16 at The Suzanne Roberts Theatre
- Festival at the Mann, May 2-3 at TD Pavilion at the Mann
- Summer Series, Jul. 16-20 at The Suzanne Roberts Theatre

Season subscriptions will go on sale to the general public on July 10, 2024. For more information about BalletX and the 2024-2025 Season, please visit www.balletx.org.

About BalletX:

BalletX, Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet, unites artistic innovation with technical excellence to forge new works of athleticism, emotion, and grace. Founded in 2005 and led by Artistic & Executive Director Christine Cox, the company has commissioned over 70 choreographers from around the world to produce 130 world premieres that are "fresh, inclusive, and connect to what people want" (*Philadelphia Citizen*). With a versatile and diverse ensemble of 16 dancers, hailed as "among America's best" by *The New York Times*, BalletX pushes the boundaries of classical ballet to tell today's stories with passion, creativity, and exuberance. As a vibrant global incubator for artistic talent, the company makes ballet accessible and inviting, captivating audiences at prestigious venues including The Kennedy Center, Vail Dance Festival, The Joyce Theater, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Through performances, international touring, and meaningful community outreach, BalletX creates extraordinary dance experiences that inspire human connection.

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