

For Immediate Release

BALLET BC LAUNCHES TICKET SALES AND ANNOUNCES NEW DANCERS FOR ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Tuesday, August 4, 2015 – Vancouver, BC – Today, Ballet BC launches single ticket sales for its anticipated 30th anniversary season. The Company's 14 dancers and three apprentices will present three programs in November, March and May, and continue its annual holiday presentation of *The Nutcracker*, performed by Alberta Ballet, in December.

"The 30th anniversary season begins with our eyes set firmly on the future," says Emily Molnar, Ballet BC's Artistic Director. *"This year's performances have been selected to reflect our passion for collaboration and vision for contemporary perspectives in dance. The season kicks off with three works that will thrill and move you, followed by a compelling full-length work by French choreographer Medhi Walerski, and will end with a program of two audience favourites and a Canadian Premiere by a newcomer who is making waves around the world. We look forward to celebrating this milestone season with our audiences!"*

Program 1: November 5, 6, 7

The first program of the 2015/16 season is a World Premiere by Belgian-born **Stijn Celis** in collaboration with one of the finest male vocal ensembles in North America, **Chor Leoni**, the Canadian Premiere of *Solo Echo* by Vancouver-based **Crystal Pite**, and the reprisal of Cayetano Soto's sensational ***Twenty Eight Thousand Waves***.

Program 2: March 17, 18, 19

In March, the Company presents a special full-length commission by **Medhi Walerski**, a choreographer who has had tremendous impact on both the artists and audiences of Ballet BC.

Program 3: May 12, 13, 14

The season closes in May with the reprisals of Emily Molnar's *16+ a room*, and Jorma Elo's *I and I am You*, both of which had their world premieres with Ballet BC in 2013, as well as the Canadian Premiere of *Bill* by Tel Aviv-based Sharon Eyal, one of the hottest choreographers today.

Holiday performance: December 29, 30, 31

Ballet BC presents **Alberta Ballet's** spectacular retelling of the holiday favourite ***The Nutcracker***. This extravagant production displays more than a million dollars in stunning sets and costumes, and includes more than 100 children from local dance schools, Cossack soldiers, mice and snowflakes dressed as Russian princesses. This sparkling spectacle offers a perfect complement to Tchaikovsky's glorious musical score played live by the **Vancouver Symphony Orchestra**.

"We are delighted to welcome new dancers and apprentices to Ballet BC this year," says Artistic Director Emily Molnar. *"These new artists' unique individuality and passion will contribute in exciting ways to our artistic vision. We would also like to say a fond farewell to our departing dancers Connor Gnam and Darren Devaney and wish them much success as they embark on the next phase in their careers."*

New 2015/16 Company Dancers:

Brett Perry: An Indiana native, Brett graduated from The Juilliard School of Dance and most recently danced with the Trey McIntyre Project in Idaho for six years.

Brandon Alley: A North Carolina native, Brandon Lee Alley trained at the Eastern Randolph High School and is a former member of Hubbard Street 2 and Bodytraffic.

Apprentices:

Nicole Ward: Raised in Vancouver, Nicole is a graduate of the Arts Umbrella Dance Program..

Albert Galindo: From Spain, Albert graduated from the Institut del Teatre in Barcelona before completing the graduate program at Arts Umbrella in Vancouver.

Returning Dancers: Andrew Bartee, Emily Chessa, Livona Ellis, Alexis Fletcher, Scott Fowler, Rachel Meyer, Racheal Prince, Gilbert Small, Peter Smida, Christoph von Riedemann, Kirsten Wicklund and Tara Williamson. **Returning Apprentice:** Zoe Michalik

Full bios for all Company members and apprentices can be found here: balletbc.com/company/dancers.

Ballet BC has also launched a new website, which reflects the new branding and word mark. The website takes the public on a new experience in the digital realm, making it easier to purchase tickets and provide updated information on the programming and upcoming performances of Ballet BC: www.balletbc.com

All performances will take place at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver, B.C.

Tickets can be purchased here: www.ticketmaster.ca/Ballet-BC-tickets/artist/54683

About Ballet BC

Combining classical integrity with a contemporary sensibility, Ballet BC is a company of 17 talented dancers from Canada and around the world that is committed to the ballet of today. Solidly grounded in the rigour and artistry of classical ballet, with an emphasis on innovation and the immediacy of the 21st century, the Company presents a distinct and diverse repertoire of the most sought-after Canadian and international contemporary ballet choreography. Ballet BC continues its commitment to perform highly acclaimed productions on regional, national and international tours in addition to its regular performance season at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver.

For more information, visit balletbc.com or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @balletbc.

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Media Contact

Jodi Smith, JLS Entertainment • 604.736.4939 • jls@jlsentertainment.ca