BALLET BC ANNOUNCES PROGRAM I OF ITS 2015/16 SEASON

Vancouver, BC - Ballet BC opens its 2015/16, 30th Anniversary, season at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, **November 5-7** with a program that will shift your focus firmly on the future of dance. Under the artistic leadership of Ballet BC Artistic Director **Emily Molnar**, PROGRAM I features three individual works by choreographers who are reshaping contemporary ballet. The program includes a World Premiere by Belgian-born choreographer **Stijn Celis**, the Canadian premiere of *Solo Echo* by Vancouver-based Choreographer **Crystal Pite** and the return of the critically acclaimed 2014 World Premiere of *Twenty Eight Thousand Waves* by Resident Choreographer **Cayetano Soto**.

"This year's opening program will make you forget what you thought you knew about ballet." says Ballet BC Artistic Director **Emily Molnar**. "Our 30th Anniversary season opens with three distinct voices that are reshaping the landscape of dance. Compelling and diverse, we are thrilled to offer our audience this exceptional program by some of the world's leading dance makers today."

Belgian-born **Stijn Celis**' has choreographed an original work for Ballet BC. This World Premiere is one of a limited number of new creations Celis has developed outside of his own company, Saarländisches Staatstheater. Celis' work has graced the major stages of Europe and North America, and his unique voice is notable for its explosive, grounded, and sensual style. For the first time ever, we partner with one of the finest male vocal ensembles in North America, Vancouver's **Chor Leoni**. This extraordinary collaboration with Ballet BC features more than 40 male singers accompanied by sacred texts spanning the human existence from darkness to light.

Globally celebrated and Vancouver-based choreographer **Crystal Pite** explores recurring themes of acceptance and loss with *Solo Echo*, a work originally developed for Nederlands Dans Theater. Inspired by two sonatas for cello and piano by Johannes Brahms and the poem "*Lines for Winter*" by Mark Strand, Pite continues her lifelong artistic exploration of tension and its resolution. *Solo Echo* moves from aggression to yearning, from the individual to the collective, travelling the pathways from conflict to acceptance.

When **Cayetano Soto**'s *Twenty Eight Thousand Waves* premiered in 2014, it was clear that magic had happened between the Company and the choreographer. As Resident Choreographer of Ballet BC, we celebrate his vision and energy by remounting this examination of adaptation and boundaries. The work, featuring music by David Lang and Bryce Dessner, is inspired by the fact that an oil tanker at sea is hit, on average, twenty eight thousand times a day by waves. This resilience in the face of extremity inspired this compelling look at the thin line between life and death, and the human instinct for survival, creating a transformative experience for audiences.

PROGRAM I plays the Queen Elizabeth Theatre at 8:00pm November 5-7, 2015. Tickets range from \$30.00 to \$90.00 (including service charges) and can be purchased through Ticketmaster at **1-855-985-2787** (855-985-ARTS) or online at **ticketmaster.ca**.

Support for Ballet BC has been generously provided by the Canada Council for the Arts, the BC Arts Council, the Province of British Columbia, and the City of Vancouver.

Ballet BC – 2015/16 Celebrating 30 Years

Combining classical integrity with a contemporary sensibility, Ballet BC is a creation-based company of 17 talented dancers from Canada and around the world that is committed to exploration and collaboration in contemporary dance. 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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