

Ballet BC Launches 2015/16 Season and 30th Anniversary with New Voices and a New Look

For Immediate Release

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Vancouver, BC – Ballet BC announced its 2015-16 Season today marking its 30th Anniversary year with a myriad of new: new voices, new collaborations and a new look.

30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Ballet BC's opens its 30th Anniversary season in November with an invigorating triple bill featuring 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*. In March, the Company presents a special commission by **Medhi Walerski**, a choreographer who has had tremendous impact on both the artists and audiences of Ballet BC. 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.

For the holidays in December, 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**.

Ballet BC will also team up with Vancouver's **Contemporary Art Gallery** and British visual artists **John Wood** and **Paul Harrison** for a unique, cross-disciplinary art and dance work to premiere in early 2016.

"I am especially proud of the forward momentum the Company has achieved over the past six years," says Ballet BC's Artistic Director Emily Molnar, "and this season will be no exception. This coming year we have much to celebrate as our passionate and talented company of dancers has earned accolades both at home and on the international stage. With more than 30 new works commissioned since 2009, Ballet BC is stronger than ever. As we celebrate this special milestone, we'll be embarking on a truly collaborative season and partnering with some of Vancouver's finest artists and arts organizations: vocal ensemble Chor Leoni in a World Premiere by Stijn Celis, a Canadian premiere by Crystal Pite and a dynamic cross-disciplinary commission with the Contemporary Art Gallery, among others. We look forward to celebrating with you in a season of exhilarating and beautiful dance."

CAYETANO SOTO NAMED RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER

We are thrilled to welcome **Cayetano Soto** as Ballet BC's Resident Choreographer, who was first introduced to our audiences in 2014 when he created *Twenty Eight Thousand Waves* for Ballet BC. The Barcelona-born dancemaker is known for his technically high-pitched and unpredictable choreographies, and his work is in the repertoire of major companies around the world. Over the next three years watch for some new surprises from this visionary choreographer.

"This is a very exciting opportunity for Cayetano Soto, Ballet BC and Vancouver audiences. Being able to work so closely together will offer Cayetano an extraordinary basis for developing new work, while challenging our dancers with a very creative and forward-thinking choreographic vision," says Emily Molnar, Ballet BC's Artistic Director. "Our audience's response to *Twenty Eight Thousand Waves* last April was astonishing and confirmed our choice to invite Cayetano, a very unique voice in international dance, to work with us over the next three seasons."

A NEW LOOK FOR BALLET BC

In honour of our 30th Anniversary, and in the spirit of our many artistic partnerships this season, we're proud to present a new face for Ballet BC. Developed in collaboration with Vancouver design agency Burnkit, our season will offer a fresh new look for our wordmark along with a new website that is scheduled to launch in May. Burnkit is known for their work with a prestigious roster of clients from Vancouver and abroad.

"Ballet BC continues to establish itself as a leading force in contemporary ballet in Canada, particularly as we make our mark on the international dance scene," says Branislav Henselmann, Ballet BC's Executive Director. "With more local and international collaborations, we are strengthening the artistic fabric of the organization, while inviting new audiences to experience dance in an interdisciplinary way. The celebration of our 30th Anniversary this season, in addition to the new branding and exciting new partnerships, also underscores Ballet BC's advancements towards financial stability. We are grateful for the support we have received from our community, donors, and audiences alike, and are thrilled to enter the next decade with a strong strategic and artistic direction."

Funding 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.

About Ballet BC

Combining classical integrity with a contemporary sensibility, Ballet BC is a company of 18 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. 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 on Twitter @balletbc.

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BALLET BC'S 2015/16 SEASON

Program 1

Ballet BC

November 5 -7, 2015

Our 30th anniversary season begins with work by three choreographers who are reshaping contemporary ballet. The program will feature the reprisal of **Cayetano Soto's** *Twenty Eight Thousand Waves*, a work created on Ballet BC that wowed audiences in 2014; the Canadian Premiere of *Solo Echo* by Vancouver-born **Crystal Pite** that explores the themes of acceptance and loss; and a World Premiere by Belgian-born **Stijn Celis**, in collaboration with Vancouver's male vocal ensemble **Chor Leoni**, an honour for Ballet BC as this in-demand choreographer only develops a limited number of new creations outside of his own company, Saarländisches Staatstheater.

Program 2

Ballet BC

March 17-19, 2016

Rising French choreographer **Medhi Walerski** has been commissioned to create a new work – his first full-length – on Ballet BC for our 30th Anniversary season. Walerski, who has had tremendous impact on both our artists and our audiences, is celebrated for his poetic, complex, imaginative, and unpredictable choreographic language. For this special commission, Ballet BC is joined by artists of the **Arts Umbrella Graduate Dance Program** to expand the cast of dancers to more than 25.

Program 3

Ballet BC

May 12-14, 2016

Ballet BC's 30th Anniversary goes out with a spectacular bang, with works by two audience favourites and a newcomer who is making waves around the world. This inspired triple bill features reprisals of works that first premiered on Ballet BC in 2013: **Emily Molnar's** compelling *16+ a room* that displays a unique choreographic language through a complex study of time, transition, and stillness; and Finnish-born **Jorma Elo's** *I and I am You*, a work that demonstrates why he is one of the most sought-after choreographers working today. The Canadian Premiere of *Bill*, by Tel Aviv-based choreographer **Sharon Eyal**, is a work that combines dance, music, and design into an instantly recognizable whole of raw, unexpected beauty.

Guest Performance

Alberta Ballet

The Nutcracker

December 29-31, 2015 (Dec 29 & 30: 7:30pm; Dec 30 & 31: 2:00pm)

It wouldn't be the holidays without *The Nutcracker*. Alberta Ballet's stunning production, choreographed by **Edmund Stripe** and with set and costumes designed by Emmy Award-winning designer **Zack Brown**, is a sparkling spectacle that offers a perfect complement to Tchaikovsky's glorious musical score played live by the **Vancouver Symphony Orchestra**.

All performances are at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Season subscriptions are now on sale, and single tickets go on sale August 4, 2014. For more detailed information, visit balletbc.com.

CAYETANO SOTO – BIOGRAPHY



Born in Barcelona and based in Munich, Cayetano Soto has created work for major companies worldwide. His technical, high-pitched and unpredictable choreography can be seen at international festivals in Europe, USA and Canada.

Soto started his dance education in Barcelona at the Institut del Teatre and continued his studies at the Koninklijke Conservatorium in The Hague. After receiving his degree in Classical Dance, Soto danced with IT Dansa Barcelona in 1997, before joining Ballet Theater Munich a year later where he created several successful ballets and one of his first signature pieces, *Fugaz*.

Since 2005, Soto has worked as a freelance choreographer with Nederlands Dans Theater, Royal Ballet of Flanders, Balé da Cidade de São Paulo, BJM Montréal, Introdans, Introdans voor de Jeugd, Ballet BC, Gauthier Dance Company, Companhia Nacional de Bailado, Perm Opera and Ballet Theater, Národní Divadlo Brno, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Tanz Luzern Theater, Ballet Hispanico and Northwest Dance Project in Portland. He also created several ballets with German companies including Stuttgarter Ballet, Staatstheater Braunschweig, Augsburg Ballett, Ballett in Revier, Staatstheater Nürnberg and Ballett Dortmund.

In 2009, he began a continuous collaboration with Aspen Santa Fe Ballet and Introdans voor de Jeugd, creating a number of new ballets. For Ballet Dortmund he created a new full evening version of *Carmen*. Due to the success in Dortmund, Národní Divadlo Brno in Czech Republic staged *Carmen* in 2010. Soto also choreographed *Dancing Mozart's mass in c-minor* with live orchestra for 4 dancers in the Church of St. Egidian in Nürnberg.

Fascinated by the German American fashion label Talbot Runhof, Soto started to collaborate with the designers in several projects. Talbot Runhof designed the costumes of *Carmen* for Dortmund Ballet and Soto choreographed a new solo work to present their new collection at the Fashion week in Paris. The costumes of the new creation *Sortijas* for Ballet Hispanico of New York will be also designed by the duo.

Soto was awarded the First Prize for his ballet *24FPS* by the choreographic competition Uncontainable Project 2006 of the Royal Ballet of Flanders. *Canela Fina*, commissioned by Bale da Cidade de São Paulo, was awarded as best dance production of 2008 by the Brazilian newspaper Folha de São Paulo. In 2011, Soto was nominated for the Golden Mask Award in Russia, for his choreography *Uneven*.

About Burnkit

Burnkit is a design agency. We provide services for interactive, brand development, graphic identity, packaging and print design. We work with a variety of premier brands and organizations, including groups like Microsoft, Bocci, Pacific Centre, Fluevog, Ballet BC, Port Metro Vancouver, Seaspans, Bing Thom Architects and the University of British Columbia. It is our goal to create positive change with the way brands speak to their clients and customers. Whether developing a website, brand identity, touchscreen wall or ad campaign, we are driven by ideas, inspired by technology and passionate about quality design.

We approach each of our projects with a strong emphasis on collaboration, with strong and clear communication between both team members and clients being at the forefront of our process. The unique mix of creative and technical resources on our team allows us to both shape and execute the ideas and strategies that we develop for our clients. Our home is a warehouse space located at 784 Powell Street, on the eastern edge of Vancouver's Railtown neighbourhood. Firmly rooted in a transitioning, dynamic neighbourhood, our studio acts as an extension of our philosophy and approach to our work.

Our body of work represents a wide variety of industries and sectors, from large corporate leaders to innovative companies making strides in the fields of design, arts and culture, fashion, technology and retail. We believe that our best work happens when we partner with clients that share our values and passion for innovative, functional solutions. Our work has received significant recognition in publications, press and a variety of awarding bodies in the applied arts industry.

www.burnkit.com