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Ballet BC Launches 2016/17 Season

For Immediate Release

Vancouver, BC – Ballet BC announced its 2016/17 Season today marking its 31st Anniversary with a unique program of Canadian and world premieres by choreographers and collaborating artists representing tremendous breadth and depth of artistic vision.

Ballet BC's opens its 2016/17 season in November with a full evening of works by Ballet BC Resident Choreographer **Cayetano Soto**, one of the most vibrant voices in contemporary ballet in the world. In March, the Company celebrates the 150th Anniversary of Canada with four distinctive voices in contemporary dance in Vancouver, **Company 605**, **Lesley Telford**, **Wen Wei Wang**, and the reprisal of **Crystal Pite's Solo Echo**, to honour this special occasion with a BC-inspired evening of works in collaboration with local designers and artists. Our season closes in May with a world premiere by Israeli born **Emanuel Gat**, a new work that Ballet BC's Artistic Director **Emily Molnar** will create for the National Arts Centre's prestigious dance series, and *Minus 16* by iconic choreographer **Ohad Naharin**, a masterwork that has been thriving on the world stage for years.

To celebrate the holidays in December, Ballet BC presents **Royal Winnipeg Ballet's** uniquely Canadian retelling of the beloved holiday classic, the *Nutcracker*. Danced to Tchaikovsky's glorious music, the story follows the wondrous adventures of Clara, her Nutcracker Prince and the Sugar Plum Fairy. The turn-of-the-century fantasy is set in a stately mansion where young Clara's Christmas dream world comes to life, featuring toy soldiers, dancing mice and a mischievous bear who steals the Christmas pudding.

"As Artistic Director now entering my eighth season, I feel an enormous sense of pride and gratitude," says Ballet BC's Artistic Director Emily Molnar. "Where we are today is a result of a passionate collective effort that has transformed the Company from the inside out, creating a close and meaningful conversation with our audience, donors, sponsors and the broader community. With a sense of curiosity and dedication, it is my vision that we cultivate a presence and relevance for dance in society and that Ballet BC's distinctive style continues to captivate audiences both at home and abroad. Bold and innovative, this season features a full evening of works by our Resident Choreographer Cayetano Soto, a BC-inspired evening with local dance makers, a celebration of Canada's 150th Anniversary in collaboration with the National Arts Centre and Canadian composer Nicole Lizée, and Ballet BC's first opportunity to work with two leading voices in international dance today, Ohad Naharin and Emanuel Gat.

About Ballet BC

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

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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

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BALLET BC'S 2016/17 SEASON

Program 1

Ballet BC
November 3-5, 2016

This evening of works by Ballet BC Resident Choreographer **Cayetano Soto**, one of the most vibrant voices in contemporary ballet in the world, launches the season with four works that display a unique range of creativity and originality in his choreographic voice throughout his career. "Like a Pedro Almodovar film, Soto subverts beauty to convey something else."

New Work – World Premiere

To launch the season Soto will create a new work for the full company that will showcase his integrated vision as choreographer, costume and lighting designer in a work that will surprise and delight audiences.

Fugaz – Canadian Premiere

Originally created in 2007 for Ballett Theater Munich, this work is inspired in part by the illness and death of Soto's father. This hauntingly beautiful work for six dancers is a tribute to the complexity of life conveyed through an intimate portrait of the female voice set to a score of Armenian sacred songs of the 20th-century.

Sortijas – Canadian Premiere

This dynamic duet with music by American born singer-songwriter **Lhasa de Sela** was originally created for Ballet Hispanico in 2013. The piece is a captivating conversation that comments on the circular ties of relationships that bind us together.

New Work – World Premiere

An astonishing architect of movement and space, Soto commands his audiences to dive into intriguing worlds of curiosity and discovery with his choreography. This world premiere will use as a starting point *Conrazoncorazon*, a critically acclaimed work created in 2015 for the Theaterhaus Stuttgart/Gauthier Dance Company. The work is described as a "madcap ensemble piece, full to the brim with virtuosity and surprise that rapidly moves through a vibrant and mercurial realm of the senses with joy and enchantment." Soto's explosive choice of music for this work was selected to stir the imagination and lift the spirit in a very different way than his previous ballets.

Program 2

Ballet BC
March 16-18, 2017

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To celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Canada, four unique voices in contemporary dance in Vancouver will honour this special occasion with a BC-inspired evening of works in collaboration with local designers and artists. This distinct display of these dance makers will exhibit the talent that has garnered them attention around the world.

*New Work: **Company 605** – World Premiere*

Vancouver-based **Company 605** is one of Canada's most exciting emerging dance companies and is dedicated to producing new dance works through a shared creative process. As Co-Artistic Directors of Company 605, dancers and creators **Lisa Gelley** and **Josh Martin** bring a fresh, urban approach to movement, incorporating elements from their eclectic backgrounds and training. This commission will mark their first collaboration with a ballet company bringing their intelligence and sensitive choreographic voice to Ballet BC to create a driving and compelling work.

*New Work: **Lesley Telford** – World Premiere*

Vancouver native **Lesley Telford** displays exceptional drive, fragility and power in her choreographic voice. Ballet BC was the first professional dance company in Canada to support her work in 2014 with the audience favorite, *An Instant*. Most recently she has entered the international scene as a freelance choreographer and has already produced commissions for Hubbard Street Dance Company 2, Netherlands Dance Theatre 1, and Compañía Nacional de Danza 2.

*Solo Echo: **Crystal Pite** – Remount*

For this special occasion we will remount the critically acclaimed *Solo Echo*, an exquisite work by Ballet BC alumna and Artistic Director of Kidd Pivot, choreographer **Crystal Pite**. *Solo Echo* was originally created for Netherlands Dance Theatre and inspired by two sonatas for cello and piano by Johannes Brahms. *Solo Echo* describes the balancing point between the exuberant and sometimes reckless states of our ambition and fortitude in the prime of life, and the opposing force of a more collective spirit that begins to take shape in the reflection of our existence and surroundings in later years. It is a work that thrilled audiences in Vancouver and on tour.

*New Work: **Wen Wei Wang** – World Premiere*

After the success of *In Motion*, originally created for Ballet BC in 2011, we are delighted to renew our relationship with **Wen Wei Wang**, through this new work. Wang's unique dance language symbolizes the Canada of today and honours the diversity of his life experiences. This commission will build on the startling and provocative works he has created as Artistic Director of Wen Wei Dance, inspiring the artists of Ballet BC and speaking to our audience with his distinctive voice and virtuosic elegance.

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Program 3

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May 11-13, 2017

New Work: Emanuel Gat – World Premiere

Israeli born **Emanuel Gat** is applauded around the world for his work that “knows how to bend tradition with craft.” As the Artistic Director of Emanuel Gat Dance in France, his distinctive voice is one of rare beauty and humanity that engulfs the stage with expansive spirit, architecture, intelligence, and intimacy. Ballet BC is excited to collaborate with Gat and to be exposed to the many facets of his exceptional creative mind and choreographic craft.

New Work: Emily Molnar – World Premiere

Ballet BC’s Artistic Director **Emily Molnar** continues to investigate her work as a choreographer with the passionate and dedicated artists of Ballet BC. Molnar will create this vibrant new work as part of an all-Canadian program in celebration of Canada’s 150th Anniversary that premieres with the National Arts Centre’s prestigious dance series in April 2017. This creation, set to an original commissioned score by the “brilliant musical scientist” and Canadian composer, **Nicole Lizée**, will be brought directly to Vancouver audiences after its world premiere in Ottawa.

Minus 16: Ohad Naharin

Ballet BC is thrilled to present for the first time a work by the revered Israeli choreographer and Artistic Director of Batsheva Dance Company, **Ohad Naharin**. Originally created in 1999 and set to an eclectic score ranging from Dean Martin to mambo, techno to traditional Israeli music, *Minus 16* has been thriving on the world stage for years with a surprising playfulness that makes each performance unique. The work is distinct for removing the barrier between performer and audience and for its mesmerizing use of improvisation in connection with Naharin’s innovative movement language known as “Gaga.”

Guest Performance

Royal Winnipeg Ballet

Nutcracker

December 8-11, 2016 (Dec 8, 9 & 10: 7:30pm; Dec 10 & 11: 2:00pm)

Canada’s Royal Winnipeg Ballet captures the imagination with this uniquely Canadian retelling of the beloved holiday classic, the *Nutcracker*. Danced to **Tchaikovsky**’s glorious music, the story follows the wondrous adventures of Clara, her Nutcracker Prince and the Sugar Plum Fairy. The turn-of-the-century fantasy is set in a stately mansion where

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young Clara's Christmas dream world comes to life, featuring toy soldiers, dancing mice and a mischievous bear who steals the Christmas pudding.

This heart-warming ballet is full of surprises, including traditional Canadian scenes such as a snowy pond hockey game and a battle on Parliament Hill. Sumptuous costumes and an imaginative set design make this classic sparkle, delighting audiences of all ages with its beauty and splendour.

All performances are at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Season subscriptions are now on sale, and single tickets go on sale August 4, 2016. For more detailed information, visit balletbc.com.