

For Immediate Release

## BALLET BC ANNOUNCES PROGRAM 2 OF ITS 2016/17 SEASON

**Vancouver, BC - Ballet BC** continues its dynamic 31st season at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, **March 16-18**. 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. Under the artistic leadership of Ballet BC Artistic Director **Emily Molnar**, PROGRAM 2 features world premieres by choreographers **Wen Wei Wang**, **Company 605**, **Lesley Telford**, and the return of critically acclaimed *Solo Echo* by **Crystal Pite**.

"To celebrate the upcoming 150th Anniversary of Canada I wanted to take the moment to acknowledge the wealth of our international choreographic talent present not only in our country, but more specifically within British Columbia, and the city of Vancouver. It is with great pleasure that Ballet BC invites Crystal Pite, Company 605, Wen Wei Wang and Lesley Telford, four unique voices in dance today, to celebrate this special occasion with an evening of works in collaboration with local designers and artists. The evening will display the distinct and compelling signatures of these dance makers that has garnered them attention around the world. With this program, I am pleased to activate a very important part of my vision - that of supporting the work of Canadian choreographers."- Emily Molnar

Vancouver-based **Company 605** is one of Canada's most exciting emerging dance companies and is dedicated to producing new dance through a shared creative process. As Co-Artistic Directors, 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 perspective to Ballet BC in a driving and compelling new work.

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) Vancouver based choreographer **Crystal Pite**. *Solo Echo* was originally created for Nederlands Dans Theater and inspired by two sonatas for piano and cello 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.

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 favourite, *An Instant*. Most recently she has entered the international scene as a freelance choreographer producing commissions for Hubbard Street Dance Company 2, Nederlands Dans Theater, and Compañía Nacional de Danza 2. Ballet BC is thrilled to bring to life this exciting new collaboration that will rivet audiences with its grace and poignancy.

After the success of *In Motion*, created for Ballet BC in 2011, we are delighted to renew our relationship with **Wen Wei Wang**. 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 style and virtuosic elegance.

PROGRAM 2 plays the Queen Elizabeth Theatre at 8:00pm March 16-18, 2017. Tickets range from \$21.25 to \$91.25 (plus applicable 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**

Combining classical integrity with a contemporary sensibility, Ballet BC is a creation-based company of 18

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 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Company presents a distinct and diverse repertoire by some of the most sought-after Canadian and International choreographers. 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](http://balletbc.com) or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @balletbc.

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