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Ballet BC
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Ballet BC Launches 2017/18 Season

For Immediate Release

Vancouver, BC – Ballet BC is proud to announce its 2017/18 season today marking its 32nd Anniversary. Three programs include world premieres and international choreographers showcasing unique discoveries and artistic voices. Passionate and distinctly talented, our company of dancers captivate audiences on home, national and global stages. Like never before, each collaboration, each performance punctuates our story of diversity, evolving practice and scope of artistic vision.

“Now entering my ninth season, I am overwhelmed with feelings of appreciation and honour,” says Ballet BC’s Artistic Director Emily Molnar. “Always curious, it is my vision to explore and foster growth for dance globally and expose unique experiences to audiences wherever Ballet BC is on stage. Grateful for the relationships we continue to develop with our supporters, I am excited for the upcoming year’s opportunity to work with exceptional collaborators. Dance at its best is transformational. It can transform a city, a room, a person, a way of seeing things. Our commitment to creating dance and art is a clear manifestation of our unique conversation with all of you—our community.” – Emily Molnar, Artistic Director

Contemporary yet timeless, this season begins with a driving new work by internationally acclaimed Resident Choreographer Cayetano Soto and the North American debut of *B.R.I.S.A.* by Swedish-born Johan Inger, one of the most sought after choreographers in Europe today. Program 2 will be a Ballet BC first—a fresh and thought-provoking retelling of the classic *Romeo and Juliet* by rising French star and returning choreographer, Medhi Walerski. Our season closes with the remount of Cayetano Soto’s striking *BEGINNING AFTER*, the eagerly anticipated return of *Bill* by long-time creative partners Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar and a world premiere by Ballet BC Artistic Director Emily Molnar in collaboration with the award-winning Phoenix Chamber Choir.

To celebrate the holidays in December, Ballet BC presents **Alberta Ballet’s** adored holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*. A favourite with Vancouver audiences, Ballet BC is excited to renew their relationship with Alberta Ballet and collaborate with a significant local partner, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

About Ballet BC

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

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For more information, visit balletbc.com or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter @balletbc](#).

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BALLET BC'S 2017/18 SEASON

Program 1

Ballet BC

November 2-4, 2017, 8:00pm

We open this season with an evening of visual storytelling by two celebrated dance artists. Ballet BC Resident Choreographer Cayetano Soto, a visionary of contemporary ballet, will premiere an original work. Highly-acclaimed choreographer Johan Inger has a legacy of work in major companies all over the world. Following the success of *Walking Mad*, Inger returns to Ballet BC with the North American premiere of *B.R.I.S.A.*

New Work – Cayetano Soto – World Premiere

To launch the season Resident Choreographer Cayetano 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. An intuitive and masterful designer of movement and space, Soto commands his audiences to dive into intriguing worlds of curiosity and discovery with his choreography. Ballet BC is pleased to feature a riveting new one-act work by this internationally celebrated voice.

B.R.I.S.A. – Johan Inger – North American Premiere

Ballet BC is the first company to receive the rights to *B.R.I.S.A.* after Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT), where it premiered in March 2014 and where Inger remains as Associate Choreographer. In *B.R.I.S.A.*, Inger explores the themes of awakening and change. Considered one of the hottest choreographers in Europe today, Johan Inger's work can be found in the repertoire of major dance companies around the world.

Program 2

Ballet BC

February 22-24, 2018, 8:00pm; February 24, 2018, 2:00pm

Romeo and Juliet – **Medhi Walerski** – World Premiere

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A first for Ballet BC's repertoire, Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* has inspired many an artist with its tragic tale of "star-crossed lovers". Compelling in its timelessness, the work captures audiences with its deeply human story and enduring themes of love, fate and family. Reflecting on the divisions that persist in today's world, Ballet BC will offer a fresh and thought-provoking retelling of the classic that profoundly resonates today.

"Story is important to us as human beings—it connects us to each other, the past, enriches our present and moves us towards the future." —Medhi Walerski

Ballet BC is thrilled to have this iconic story expertly crafted by Medhi Walerski, one of the most original voices in international dance today. Set to Sergei Prokofiev's original score, this full-length commission showcases Walerski's signature style that brings together dazzling landscapes woven with poetic, unpredictable and complex imagery. Walerski brings a contemporary familiarity to the story of *Romeo and Juliet*—*"the vision of love that Shakespeare gave us in this master work is very precious. It is like holding a jewel in your hand that needs to be protected."*

His previous creations for Ballet BC, *Petite Cérémonie*, *Prelude* and *Natus*, were instant successes with audiences in Vancouver and on tour. *Romeo and Juliet* will be Walerski's second full-evening commission for Ballet BC, and his first full-length narrative work.

This innovative reworking of the full-length classic is a collaboration between Dutch set and lighting designer Theun Mosk, an international team of collaborators and the Arts Umbrella Graduate Dance Program.

Program 3

Ballet BC

May 10-12, 2018, 8:00pm

Our season closes with the return of Resident Choreographer Cayetano Soto's hauntingly beautiful *BEGINNING AFTER*. Ballet BC's Artistic Director Emily Molnar welcomes acclaimed conductor, Graeme Langager, and the Phoenix Chamber Choir to collaborate on a new work. The evening's dynamic program also features the anticipated return of *Bill*, by collaborators Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar.

BEGINNING AFTER – Cayetano Soto – World Premiere Ballet BC 2016

Haunting in its imagery and visceral in its execution, the world premiere of *BEGINNING AFTER*, created for Ballet BC in 2016, showcases Cayetano Soto's skill and artistry like never before. Caught between memory and truth, driving choreography set to Handel's exquisite score, explores the often ambiguous, murky space between the two. Both compellingly beautiful, male and female dissolve into being.

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New Work – Emily Molnar – World Premiere

Ballet BC's Artistic Director Emily Molnar creates a new work in collaboration with conductor Graeme Langager and Vancouver's award-winning Phoenix Chamber Choir. Complex and sensate, the work reflects Molnar's passion for pushing the boundaries of the expressive body. The music, Peteris Vasks' atmospheric, wordless vocalise, *Plainscapes*, elegantly weaves through Molnar's skillful choreography—creating a mesmerizing tapestry of voice and movement.

Bill – Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar – Canadian Premiere Ballet BC 2016

Ballet BC is honoured to be the first Canadian dance company to work with Israeli choreographic sensation Sharon Eyal and collaborator Gai Behar. Former Resident Choreographer of the Batsheva Dance Company and now Artistic Director of her company, L.E.V., Sharon's distinct style has put her on the map as one of the most sought after voices in dance today. With daring and sensual choreography, *Bill* showcases Eyal's signature shifts from large to smaller groups that morph into breathtaking solos. *Bill* is an intense, raw mix of dance, music and design—creating a world unlike any other.

Guest Performance

Alberta Ballet

Nutcracker

December 28-30, 2017, 7:30pm; Dec 29 & 30, 2:00pm

For the holidays, Ballet BC is excited to present Alberta Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* with choreography by Edmund Stripe and sets and costumes designed by Emmy Award-winning designer Zack Brown. Set in turn-of-the-century Imperial Russia, an era noted for its opulent grandeur, this extravagant production displays more than a million dollars in stunning sets and costumes; including children from local dance schools, mice dressed as Cossack soldiers and snowflakes dressed as Russian princesses. This spectacular production offers a perfect complement to Tchaikovsky's glorious musical score played live by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Treat your family to the joy, excitement and unforgettable adventure of *The Nutcracker* this festive season!

All performances are at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Season subscriptions are now on sale, and single tickets go on sale September 5, 2017. For more detailed information, visit balletbc.com.