

***NEW DATES - Special Preview performance added due to popular demand on Wednesday, Feb 21 at 8pm, no Saturday, Feb 24 matinee

For Immediate Release

BALLET BC ANNOUNCES *ROMEO + JULIET* FOR ITS 2017/18 SEASON

Vancouver, BC - Ballet BC continues its dynamic 32nd season at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, **February 22- 24 (preview February 21)** with performances from Thursday to Saturday, February 22-24 at 8:00pm and a special boutique **Preview** performance on **Wednesday, February 21 at 8:00pm**, with limited seating available for this show only.

Under the artistic leadership of Ballet BC Artistic Director **Emily Molnar**, PROGRAM 2 will be a Ballet BC repertoire first—a fresh retelling of the classic ***Romeo + Juliet*** by rising French star and returning choreographer, **Medhi Walerski**.

This story 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’s World Premiere will offer a thought-provoking contemporary take of the classic that profoundly resonates today.

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

Walerski’s 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.

Romeo + Juliet plays at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre at 8:00pm February 22-24 and a special added Preview performance on Wednesday, February 21 at 8:00pm. Tickets range from \$35.00 to \$100.00 (plus service charges) and can be purchased through Ticketmaster online at ticketmaster.ca or **1-855-985-2787** (855-985-ARTS).

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. This program is sponsored by Assante Wealth Management, Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity and Dance Victoria.

Ballet BC

Combining classical integrity with a contemporary sensibility, Ballet BC is a creation-based company of 20 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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