

**For Immediate Release**

## **BALLET BC ANNOUNCES 2019/20 SEASON**

Vancouver, B.C. — Ballet BC is proud to announce the 2019/20 season marking the 34th Anniversary year as the company continues to celebrate life as movement. The new season, filled with powerful and unforgettable moments, features a North American premiere, Ballet BC premiere and the return of five renowned choreographers!

Reveling in the beauty of our humanity, the season opens with two works in Program 1 by acclaimed choreographers: the premiere of *BUSK* by Canadian choreographer Aszure Barton and *B.R.I.S.A* by Johan Inger. In Program 2 we revisit the pleasure, pain and politics of young love with the timeless *Romeo + Juliet* by Medhi Walerski. Program 3 closes the season with a hypnotic experience of the sensory worlds of *Hora* by Ohad Naharin and *Bill* by Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar.

For the holidays in December, Ballet BC presents Alberta Ballet's retelling of holiday classic *The Nutcracker*. With choreography by Edmund Stripe, sets and costumes designed by Emmy Award-winning designer Zack Brown, and Tchaikovsky's glorious musical score played live by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, this extravagant production is a dazzling complement to the holiday season.

"In 2019/20, we are excited to continue a dialogue about dance and its power to transform and connect us in ways that echo across time, place and culture. Today, more than ever, we need channels of expression that examine society and our place in it. Dance can move people to feel and interpret life in new and meaningful ways. This season we are eager to delve deeper into a dance with each of you." – Emily Molnar, Artistic Director.

### **Ballet BC's 2019/20 Season**

#### **Program 1**

October 31, November 1-2, 2019, 8:00pm

Ballet BC opens the 2019/20 season and invites you to surrender to the sublime experience of living with work by two internationally renowned choreographers. Aszure Barton opens the evening with the Canadian premiere of *BUSK*, showcasing her versatile and poignant choreography inspired by the world of busking set to an atmospheric score. Returning to delight Vancouver audiences is Johan Inger's *B.R.I.S.A*, a probing and liberating piece exploring themes of awakening and change.

## Program 2

March 4-7, 2020, 8:00pm

In response to unprecedented demand and sold out performances for 2018's world premiere in Vancouver, Ballet BC returns to this iconic story of *Romeo + Juliet* set to Sergei Prokofiev's stunning score. Crafted by Medhi Walerski, an original voice in international dance, his innovative and contemporary retelling of the full-length classic brings together dazzling scenes woven with unpredictable and complex imagery.

## Program 3

May 7-9, 2020, 8:00pm

The season closes with the return of two of the most influential artists in international dance today. Ballet BC is honoured to be the first North American company to perform *Hora* by the legendary Ohad Naharin, following the success of the audience favourite, *Minus 16*. The evening's dynamic program features the much-anticipated return of the mesmerizing and provocative *Bill* by collaborators Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar.

## Add-on Performance

Ballet BC presents Alberta Ballet's *The Nutcracker*

December 28-29, 1:00pm & 6:30pm; December 30, 1:00pm

Ballet BC is pleased to present Alberta Ballet's retelling of *The Nutcracker* this holiday season. 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. Whether you're beginning a new holiday tradition or revisiting an old favourite, treat your family to the joy, excitement and unforgettable adventure of *The Nutcracker!*

All performances are at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Season subscriptions are now on sale and single tickets go on sale August 15, 2019. For more detailed information, visit [balletbc.com](http://balletbc.com).

## About Ballet BC

Founded in 1986, Ballet BC has been under the leadership of Artistic Director Emily Molnar since 2009. 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 21st century, the Company presents a distinct and diverse repertoire by the most sought-after Canadian and international contemporary choreographers. Since 2009, the Company has developed a repertoire of more than 45 new works. Ballet BC continues its commitment to perform highly

acclaimed productions on regional, national and international tours in addition to its regular performance season in Vancouver, and was nominated for an Olivier Award in 2019. Ballet BC is committed to being a leader in the community through its outreach and professional development activities, and actively fosters collaborations that support artists, choreographers and audiences alike, furthering the boundaries of contemporary dance.

For more information, visit [balletbc.com](http://balletbc.com) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) @balletbc. For interview requests, please contact Sharla Farrell at [sharla@thinkmilk.ca](mailto:sharla@thinkmilk.ca)

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