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For Immediate Release

Ballet BC Returns with *Re-Space* in collaboration with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra at The Polygon Gallery



Ballet BC Dancer Dex van ter Meij. Photo credit: Michael Slobodian

October 28th, 2020 - Vancouver, BC - [Ballet BC](#) is pleased to announce its first live performance since February, *Re-Space*, which will debut at The Polygon Gallery on November 20th and 21st. Accompanied by Belgian composer Adrien Cronet and Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's

Principal Cellist Henry Shapard, Ballet BC's dancers will present an intimate yet physically distanced dance experience inspired by the idea of human connection, choreographed by Artistic Director Medhi Walerski and the Artists of the company.

“Our current global situation has emphasized a reflection on the human connection and a longing for the essence of live performance,” said Medhi Walerski. “How incredibly humbling it is to collaborate with The Polygon Gallery and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and to witness the endless creative possibilities of human relationships, experiencing the texture, the rhythms, and the tastes of the bodily world. This site-specific performance examines our relationships with both oneself and one another —the infinite gates where our bodies receive the nourishment and otherness of vibration and energy.”

Re-Space will be performed to a new composition by Adrien Cronet, a Belgian composer with a background in graphic design, known for his rich electronic aesthetic combining spacious soundscapes with percussive rhythms. This will be his fourth creation with Medhi Walerski and his first collaboration with Ballet BC.

Additional accompaniment will be performed live by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's new Principal Cellist, Henry Shapard. At the age of 21, Henry is the youngest principal cellist of a major orchestra in North America and already boasts an impressive resume, most recently as the Principal Cellist to the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra. This year, Henry graduated with distinction from Yale University where he was awarded the Bach Society Prize, amongst several other prestigious awards. He has spent the COVID-19 period as the cellist of the New Fromm Players of the Tanglewood Music Center in Boston, working remotely to develop applicable techniques for live-streaming performances of contemporary music.

Re-Space will run on November 20th at 9pm and on November 21st at 6pm and 9pm. In order to meet physical distancing standards, tickets will be limited and allotted to the public by means of a lottery system. Patrons can enter to win access to purchase two tickets, with only one entry permitted per person. The lottery will be open until Wednesday, November 4th at 5pm, with the draw taking place at 6pm. Winners will be contacted on November 5th at 9am and will have 24 hours to purchase their tickets before they're returned back into the system. Tickets are \$30 per person.

Ballet BC, The Polygon Gallery and Vancouver Symphony Orchestra have put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. All special events at The Polygon Gallery are planned in accordance with the Provincial Health Officer's most recent order on **Gatherings & Events** including capacity restrictions, social distancing, mandatory mask wearing and sanitization of high frequency touch points. The health and safety of performers, staff and attendees of this event is our top priority. The Polygon's complete COVID safety plan is available upon request.

The Polygon Gallery is located at 101 Carrie Cates Ct in North Vancouver. For more information on the *Re-Space* performance and to enter the ticket lottery please visit thepolygon.ca/event/re-space.

About Ballet BC

Founded in 1986, Ballet BC is currently under the leadership of Artistic Director Medhi Walerski. 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 by the most sought-after Canadian and international contemporary choreographers.

Ballet BC performs 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.

About The Polygon Gallery

The Polygon is one of Canada's most acclaimed photography and media art galleries. The Gallery moved into its Governor General's Medal winning building in 2017 after operating as Presentation House Gallery for 40 years. The organization has presented more than 300 exhibitions, and earned a reputation as one of Canada's most adventurous public art institutions.

www.thepolygon.ca

About The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra

Founded in 1919, the Grammy and Juno-award winning Vancouver Symphony Orchestra is the third largest orchestra in Canada, the largest arts organization in Western Canada, and one of the few orchestras in the world to have its own music school. Led by Music Director Otto Tausk since 2018, the VSO performs more than 150 concerts each year reaching over 270,000 people annually. On tour the VSO has performed in the United States, China, Korea and across Canada. Recent guest artists include Daniil Trifonov, Dawn Upshaw, James Ehnes, Adrienne Pieczonka, Gidon Kremer, Renée Fleming, Yefim Bronfman, Itzhak Perlman, Bernadette Peters, Tan Dun, and more. For the 2020-21 season the VSO has created the innovative streaming service TheConcertHall.ca, a virtual home for a virtual season, where more than forty performances will be released throughout the year.

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