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**For Immediate Release**

**Ballet BC Kicks Off Their 2021 Programming with *Take Form*, a Digital Streaming Event Choreographed by Dancers**



**February 2nd, 2021 - Vancouver, BC** - [Ballet BC](#) will be kicking off their 2021 season on February 25th with a digital streaming performance, *Take Form*. The online event will feature nine new performances entirely choreographed and performed by their dancers and Artists in Residence. After overcoming unprecedented barriers last year related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ballet BC is looking forward to reconnecting with their patrons and showcasing new work from their dancers that celebrates the dance company's dedication to fostering local talent.

"It is about creativity, artistic growth, and freedom. We must offer space, time, and opportunity for our dancers to learn and explore the different facets of our art form," said Medhi Walerski, Artistic Director of Ballet BC. "I am so excited for them, and I hope that *Take Form* will become a fundamental tool in the development of future choreographers, leaders, and producers."

*Take Form* will feature nine new performances choreographed by Ballet BC's dancers and Artists in Residence. Notable company dancers showcasing their work include: returning Ballet BC dancer, Livona Ellis, Emerging Artist Jacob Williams, and Artist in Residence, Alexis Fletcher. Ballet BC veteran, Livona Ellis, is a favourite amongst patrons and first began dancing with the company in 2010. She has since received numerous accolades and performed internationally at the Konzert Theater Bern in Switzerland. In addition to her work with Ballet BC, she is currently the programming advisor for BC Movement Arts Society and a faculty member at Arts Umbrella.

"I'm so happy that we, the dancers of Ballet BC, have come together to put on this show. We are constantly collaborating but somehow this experience feels different," said Livona Ellis, Dancer at Ballet BC. "We've put our brains together and it's incredible to see how all our ideas, questions, lightbulb moments, and fantasies have been able to take form. The process has happened very quickly and I know we all feel a bit crunched for time but it has also been a great reminder to trust your instincts and that sometimes your first choice is the right one."

Emerging Artist Jacob Williams will also be debuting his own choreography at *Take Form*. New to Ballet BC this season, Jacob has studied at the Alonzo King Lines Ballet and danced with the Oregon Lines Ballet Theatre 2. In his young career, he has had the honor of performing works by Nacho Duato, Mats Ek, Sharon Eyal, Marco Goecke, Johan Inger, and Crystal Pite. Meanwhile, Artist in Residence Alexis Fletcher is a performer who danced with Ballet BC for 14 years. She's now an Artist in Residence with the company, while also performing independently for her own projects and numerous local arts organizations throughout BC.

*Take Form* will also feature original work from Ballet BC artists including Brandon Lee Alley, Jordan Lang, Stefanie Noll, Justin Rapaport, Peter Smida, Kirsten Wicklund and Zenon Zubyk.

Registration for *Take Form* is free and the digital stream will be accessible for viewing from 5pm to 10pm on Thursday, February 25th. Ballet BC has plans to film additional digital works to be broadcasted later this year, including a North American premiere choreographed by Artistic Director, Medhi Walerski. Further details on the upcoming spring season are to come.

### **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.

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