

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ballet BC Returns to Queen Elizabeth Theatre for a Live 2021-2022 Season

The season opens this fall with new work from Canadian talent, alongside the live North American premiere of Artistic Director Medhi Walerski's GARDEN



Ballet BC dancer Anna Bekirova. Photo by Marcus Eriksson.

September 22, 2021 - Vancouver, BC - After a long-awaited return to the live stage, [Ballet BC](#) is back at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre for their 2021-2022 season with a series of nine anticipated new works. From November 4th to November 6th, the season opens with **Unfold + Give**. The program will feature three world premieres from Canadian creatives, including *Stadium*, a piece choreographed by Toronto-born up-and-comer Ethan Colangelo, *After We Glow* by Vancouver's Company 605 and *Lean-to* by Vancouver choreographer Lesley Telford. The fall program will also showcase Medhi Walerski's acclaimed *GARDEN*, which originally debuted in North America last spring over digital platforms. This will be Walerski's first live performance with the company as Artistic Director.

"It is with great pride that I invite you to discover a new Ballet BC season. The past year has been challenging for all of us, but what has emerged is the necessity to connect with one another," said Medhi Walerski, Ballet BC's Artistic Director. "With our upcoming season, we look forward to

shining a light on Canadian choreographers and nurturing relationships with world-renowned guest artists, all while also sharing visionary pieces from women in dance.”

Welcoming new and long-time patrons back into the theatre, Ballet BC’s reemergence to the stage with **Unfold + Give** introduces never-before-seen works from a trio of talented Canadian choreographers. First on the bill, Toronto native Ethan Colangelo is debuting his highly-anticipated new piece *Stadium*. The rising star recently burst onto the choreography scene with works for Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur, Springboard Danse Montreal and Arts Umbrella, and is now sharing his talents with Ballet BC audiences by giving them a first-look at his new work. *Stadium* offers audiences an introspective performance that dives into the concept of human reflection through memory. Throughout the work, as each character builds their “stadium” they become external spectators viewing their own experiences and memories.

Vancouver choreographer Lesley Telford will be sharing *Lean-to*, an anticipated new piece for Ballet BC’s fall program. *Lean-to* is her third commission with the company and will explore the co-dependencies of family constellations and how they evolve over time.

The third new work making its world premiere with Ballet BC is *After We Glow* by Vancouver’s [Company 605](#). The piece explores how we envision future in our bodies and how we move through time to manifest our future. The dancers in this performance physically express this idea by bending and distorting into unfamiliar forms, playing around with new rhythms and a variety of unknowable spaces that ultimately weave together to illuminate a new way forward.

Alongside these new works, Ballet BC Artist Director Medhi Walerski’s celebrated piece, *GARDEN*, will be making its live North American debut on the Queen Elizabeth Theatre stage. After stepping into the role of Artistic Director with Ballet BC in July 2020, Medhi Walerski has creatively and nimbly led the company through unexpected pivots and dynamic online events, including last April’s REACHING U, where *GARDEN* made its North American debut. *GARDEN* is an elegant and sophisticated work inspired by Camille Saint-Saëns’ *Piano Quintet in A minor, Op. 14*. Through a series of duets, unison, and counterpoint, while reflecting the refined dialogue between strings and piano, the dancers shape the space physically in a pure and organic way that is sure to mesmerize the crowd on a live stage. *GARDEN* was previously nominated by Dance Europe for Best Production.

Looking ahead to 2022, Ballet BC fans have two more programs to look forward to with **Reveal + Tell** scheduled for March 3rd to March 5th and **What If** set for May 12th to May 14th. **Reveal + Tell** will welcome internationally acclaimed choreographers Marco Goecke and Crystal Pite, as well as a new work from Walerski. **What If** will highlight new artistic voices for the company—Vancouver’s Out Innerspace, German choreographer Felix Landerer, and Montreal’s Dorotea Saykaly, the first recipient of the Emily Molnar Emerging Choreographer Award.

All performances will be taking place at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre with current COVID-19 health and safety protocols in place. Tickets for 8pm showings of **Unfold + Give** are now available. Subscriptions to the 2022 programs will be available early next year.

For more information and to remain updated on upcoming Ballet BC performances, visit balletbc.com or follow them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Ballet BC

Founded in 1986, Ballet BC is currently under the leadership of Artistic Director Medhi Walerski. Ballet BC is an internationally acclaimed collaborative and creation-based contemporary ballet company that is a leader and resource in the creation, production and education of contemporary dance in Canada. Bold and innovative, the Company's distinctive style and approach has made a unique and valuable national contribution to the development of dance. In 2019, the Company was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production for their tour to Sadler's Wells in London.

Since 2009, the Company has developed a repertoire of more than 45 new works by acclaimed Canadian and international choreographers. Ballet BC actively fosters collaborations that support artists, choreographers and audiences alike, furthering the boundaries of contemporary dance. The company embraces excellence in the practice of contemporary ballet, with its wide diversity of technique and style, honouring its roots and components.

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