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Vancouver, BC

### **Ballet BC Highlights Top Local and International Talent with HORIZON/S**

*Following a hugely successful European tour, Ballet BC returns home to share an anticipated company debut by Vancouver's Shay Kuebler, a world premiere by Czech creator Jiří Pokorný, and the return of WHICH/ONE by Adi Salant.*



Ballet BC Dancer Sarah Pippin. Photo by Marcus Eriksson.

**February 13, 2023** | Vancouver, BC - [Ballet BC](#) returns to the stage at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver March 16/17/18 with HORIZON/S, the second program of the 2022/23 season.

Featuring the first Ballet BC commission from Vancouver-based Shay Kuebler, one of the city's best-known contemporary dancers, choreographers, and educators, the program is also highlighted by an anticipated world premiere from Czech choreographer Jiří Pokorný, and Adi Salant's *WHICH/ONE*, which premiered with Ballet BC in 2019 to rave reviews.

"It's great to be back in Vancouver preparing to share three exciting works, including two world premieres, with our home audience," says Medhi Walerski, Ballet BC Artistic Director. "It is fitting that the evening will include the company's first commission from Shay Kuebler, an exciting voice from the local dance community who draws inspiration from a fascinating mix of movement forms.

I'm also thrilled to present Czech talent Jiří Pokorný to our audience for the first time - known for his dream world creations, he is a fresh and sought-after voice in the world of dance. And I will always love the energizing, playful, and clever work of Adi Salant. If you have yet to see *WHICH/ONE*, I encourage you to take this chance."

From Vancouver's Shay Kuebler comes a dynamic new creation, his first for the company. The Artistic Director of Radical System Art is known for his creative interplay between theatre, martial arts and contemporary dance, and audiences can expect an innovative work rich with theatrics and physicality. The work will explore polarities and the concept that individuals require balance; when one element is pushed to an extreme it opens the need for its opposite. This concept of duality and opposition is ever-present throughout the anticipated creation, which also places great focus on the hive mind and momentum of the group.

Themes of polarity and balance also exist within Jiří Pokorný's first creation for Ballet BC. Based in Prague, Pokorný was a dancer with Nederlands Dans Theater 1 & 2 before joining Crystal Pite's Kidd Pivot and transitioning to freelance choreography in 2013. Inspired by his own experience in the ancient forests of Yakushima Island in southern Japan, Pokorný's latest creation examines the dialogue between us and our environment and centres around themes of environmental awareness, human connections with nature, and survival.

Rounding out the program is the return of the *WHICH/ONE* from Adi Salant, former co-artistic director of the Batsheva Dance Company alongside Ohad Naharin. Originally commissioned for Ballet BC in 2019, Salant's work is both clever and profound, anchored by a deep sense of presence and navigating between explosive physicality and delicate scarcity. Set to popular musical excerpts in addition to an original soundscape, the nuanced piece features the entire company and explores contrasting themes of human performance and mundanity.

HORIZON/S takes place March 16/17/18 at 8pm at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver. Tickets and mini-subscriptions for both our March and May programs are now available at [balletbc.com](http://balletbc.com). For more information and to remain updated on upcoming Ballet BC performances and events, visit [balletbc.com](http://balletbc.com) or follow them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

## **ABOUT BALLETT BC**

Founded in 1986, Ballet BC is currently under the leadership of Artistic Director Medhi Walerski. Based in Vancouver, the collaborative and creation-based company of 20 exceptional dancers has made a unique contribution to the development of contemporary dance both at home and around the world, and consistently strives to further the boundaries of what dance can be. With a growing repertoire of more than 50 works created over the past decade by artists such as William Forsythe, Crystal Pite, Wen Wei Wang, Cayetano Soto, Sharon Eyal, Medhi Walerski, Ohad Naharin, Aszure Barton, and Johan Inger among others, the company's unwavering dedication to creation fosters collaborations that support artists, choreographers and audiences alike. In addition, Ballet BC is committed to its role as a leader in the community through education and audience outreach and professional development activities. To learn more, visit [balletbc.com](http://balletbc.com).

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