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Ballet BC Announces Monumental 2023/24 Lineup

The company shares work from big names and introduces several new venues in an ambitious season of firsts



Artists of Ballet BC. Photo by Marcus Eriksson.

Ballet BC will share seven new works—three additions to Ballet BC’s repertoire, and four world premieres from choreographers Micaela Taylor, Medhi Walerski, Stephen Shropshire and Out Innerspace—in its most ambitious season yet. Plus, exciting revivals from brilliant creators William Forsythe and Crystal Pite, and the introduction of several new, more intimate venues.

The 2023/24 season opens in November with *HERE*, a program featuring a brand new creation from Miami-born, Netherlands-based Stephen Shropshire, Shahar Binyamini’s epic *BOLERO X* featuring a cast of 50 dancers in collaboration with Arts Umbrella Dance, and the return of William Forsythe’s powerful *Enemy in the Figure*.

In March, *NOW* offers exciting world premieres from rising star Micaela Taylor and Vancouver’s own Out Innerspace, plus Crystal Pite’s *The Statement*, back by popular demand. In addition to performances at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in downtown Vancouver, *NOW* will also be shared with

audiences in Surrey, BC for two nights only at the Bell Performing Arts Centre—the company’s first expansion of its mainstage programming into the Greater Vancouver region.

The season concludes in May with FOR EVER, an entire evening of works from Ballet BC Artistic Director Medhi Walerski including *SWAY* and *Chamber*—both new to the company’s repertoire—and an eagerly awaited world premiere to close the season.

Canada’s Royal Winnipeg Ballet will return in December to a new venue at the Centre for Performing Arts in Vancouver; and Take Form also makes a comeback, offering our dancers the unique opportunity to delve into all aspects of production and enhance their choreographic skills in a program entirely led, created, and produced by them.

“Entering my fourth season as Artistic Director, I am filled with so much pride for both this incredible company and our community,” says Medhi Walerski. “It’s a significant moment for the organization, as we embark on our first full season in our new space on Granville Island and share our work on new stages at home in Vancouver, across the Lower Mainland, and around the world. From large-scale productions to premieres from rising stars to intimate performances led by our dancers, I can’t wait for our audiences to experience it all.”

In addition to its mainstage programs, the company will be expanding its adult classes and workshops series in its new facility on Granville Island as well as in-school outreach and engagement programs throughout the Lower Mainland. Ballet BC Annex also returns, a collaboration with Arts Umbrella that tours regionally bringing professional performances and workshops to schools across the province. This fall, the Annex project will premiere a new creation by Joseph Toonga, an emerging UK-based choreographer known for his interdisciplinary work that challenges racial stigmas and societal stereotypes. In addition, the company will appear on tour around the world, performing on prestigious stages in cities such as Luxembourg, Toronto, and New York City.

2023/24 SEASON

HERE | Nov 2/3/4 2023, Queen Elizabeth Theatre

Opening the 2023/24 season, HERE features the return of one of the most popular works in Ballet BC’s repertoire by a legendary creator, an anticipated world premiere from a choreographer new to the company, and an epic large ensemble piece. Experience *Enemy in the Figure* from William Forsythe, a new creation from Stephen Shropshire, and Shahar Binyamini’s *BOLERO X*.

NOW | Mar 7/8/9 2024, Queen Elizabeth Theatre

NOW | Mar 22/23, 2024, Bell Performing Arts Centre

The season continues with an evening featuring a new commission from LA-based emerging voice Micaela Taylor, the return of *The Statement* from Ballet BC alum Crystal Pite, and a follow-up world premiere from Out Innerspace, a Vancouver-based duo making waves around the world. An all-West Coast program celebrating the exceptional work of some of today’s top women choreographers.

FOR EVER | May 9/10/11 2024, Queen Elizabeth Theatre

A full evening of premieres from Ballet BC Artistic Director Medhi Walerski closes the season. A powerful tribute to The Rite of Spring, the epic *Chamber* makes its long-awaited company premiere. *SWAY*, an intimate exploration of hope, is shared with North American audiences for the first time.

Plus an anticipated world premiere, Walewski's first new creation since the success of *just BEFORE right AFTER*.

Nutcracker | Dec 7/8/9/10 2023, The Centre for Performing Arts

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet is back with their magical, one-of-a-kind rendition of *Nutcracker*. Danced to an enchanting Tchaikovsky score, the fantastical story follows the adventures of Clara, her Nutcracker Prince, the Sugar Plum Fairy and more of everyone's most beloved characters as they discover the wonder of the holiday season. A wintertime classic for all ages.

Take Form | Apr 5/6 2024, Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre

The dancers of Ballet BC take the lead in this unique program entirely created, produced, and performed by them. Originally conceived as a digital initiative to keep dancers active during the pandemic, we're thrilled to include this special opportunity as part of our regular season offerings. Take Form creates space for company members to explore skills beyond performance and develop into the next generation of choreographers, arts administrators, and leaders in dance.

Full details at balletbc.com. Subscriptions to Queen Elizabeth Theatre performances are on sale now. Subscribers save 20% off and receive a range of other great benefits.

ABOUT BALLET BC

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

Ballet BC presents a diverse repertoire of Canadian and international work from the late 20th and early 21st centuries, including choreography by William Forsythe, Cayetano Soto, Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar, Johan Inger, Medhi Walewski, Ohad Naharin, Crystal Pite, Emily Molnar and more, and is deeply committed to the creation and performance of new works.

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