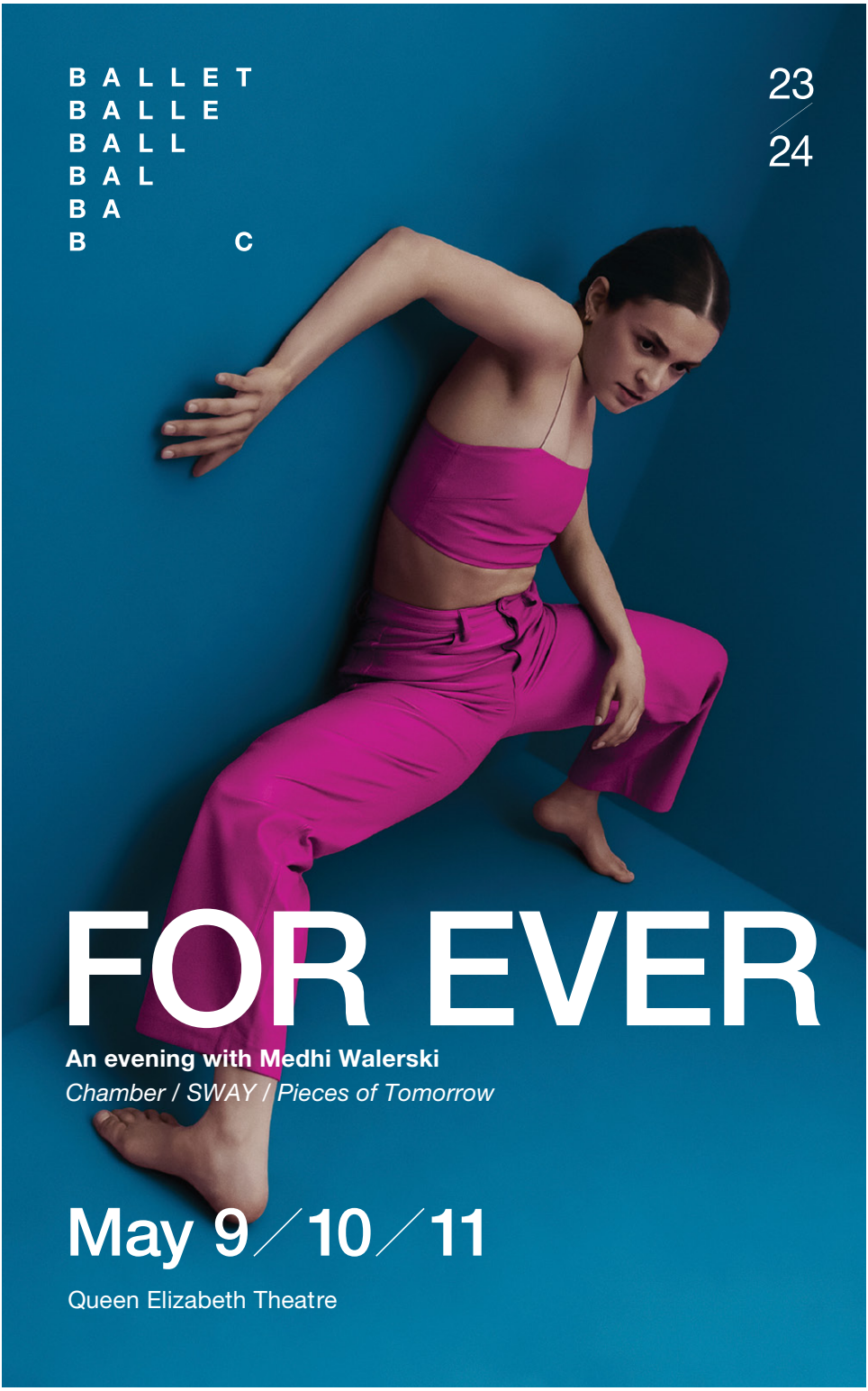
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FOR EVER

An evening with Medhi Walerski

Chamber / SWAY / Pieces of Tomorrow

May 9 / 10 / 11

Queen Elizabeth Theatre



DANCER PEI LUN LEI. PHOTO BY PETER SMIDA.

Ballet BC is located on the traditional lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səl̓ílwətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work and learn together on unceded Coast Salish Territory.



Hello and welcome to FOR EVER.

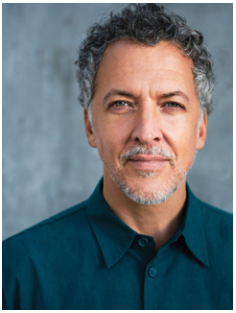
What better way to conclude Ballet BC's 2023/24 season at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre than an evening of works by Artistic Director Medhi Walerski. His journey and evolution as a globally acclaimed choreographer continues with his sixth new creation for the company, shared for the first time this weekend. Vancouver, you are in for a treat.

We are reflecting on a year of great successes for Ballet BC. From sold-out houses on tour and at home, to expanding our reach in new venues and cities, to record-breaking fundraising campaigns, it has been an incredibly rewarding year for the company. Not to mention exciting artistic collaborations such as that with Lyle XOX which you will experience tonight.

This program also marks the conclusion of our Spring Campaign, focused on creation. If you enjoy the performance, I invite you to consider further supporting dance creation in Vancouver by making a contribution. Thank you to everyone who continues to champion our work and push this art form forward—your support makes all the difference.

Enjoy the show, and see you next season!

Laura Cundari
Chair of the Board



Thank you all for joining us.

Tonight is particularly special as I present three works close to my heart. Reflecting on each brings a flood of emotions, especially recalling the journey of creating them.

Chamber, born 12 years ago, was a pivotal moment in my career. Inspired by Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring," it's been a cornerstone in my journey as a choreographer. Collaborating with composer Joby Talbot, we explored the delicate balance between order and chaos, and the interplay between the collective and the individual. Revisiting *Chamber* now fills me with immense pride as we breathe new life into this primal, ritualistic work.

SWAY premiered five years ago and marked my initial collaboration with composer Adrien Cronet. It embodies both strength and fragility, inspired by Emily Dickinson's resilient notion of hope. It speaks to the power of perseverance and the beauty found in vulnerability.

Lastly, *Pieces of Tomorrow*, my latest work, draws from Bach's timeless melodies, recomposed by Johan Ullen. It delves into themes of legacy and creation, forging a path from the past into the future. Collaborating with Lyle XOX has been deeply inspiring. His concept of giving new life to existing, discarded objects is transformative in its discovery and is a beautiful metaphor for how we can look at life.

Surrounded by echoes of past creations and the anticipation of what's to come, I'm deeply grateful for your presence. Enjoy FOR EVER.

Medhi Walerski
Artistic Director



Dear Vancouver,

Welcome to the culmination of our 23/24 season, our third and final production. It feels surreal to write these words, knowing we are at this time of the year once again.

This season has been a journey marked by significant milestones for Ballet BC, many of which you, our cherished audience, have shared with us. Foremost among these is the resounding success of previous programs HERE and NOW, sold-out sensations that stand as a testament to your unwavering support. The performing arts, ephemeral by nature, leave indelible impressions on our minds and souls. Unlike other art forms, they exist only in the fleeting moments we are privileged to witness them: the hush as the lights dim, the anticipation as the curtain rises, unveiling the artist's vision.

Our artistry thrives on your presence, your engagement, your belief. This season, you've rallied behind Ballet BC in unprecedented ways, and for that, we extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks for your steadfast support. The entire team eagerly anticipates the opportunity to welcome you back to the theatre for the 24/25 season. For those of you sharing in the excitement, our season subscriptions will be on sale May 15, with single tickets following on June 19. It will be another incredible season of dance and I hope you'll join us again.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Rupert Tookey
Interim Managing Director

Chamber

World Premiere - October 4 2012, NDT 1, The Hague
Ballet BC Premiere - May 9, 2024

CHOREOGRAPHY
Medhi Walerski

COMPOSER
Joby Talbot

MUSIC
Chamber Symphony

ORIGINAL LIGHTING DESIGN
Jordan Tuinman

REWORKED LIGHTING DESIGN
Lisette van der Linden

LIGHTING DIRECTOR
Lisette van der Linden

COSTUME DESIGN
Medhi Walerski

STAGING
Sarah Reynolds

PERFORMERS
Thursday May 9 + Friday May 10
Luca Afflitto, Eduardo Jiménez Cabrera, Sidney Chuckas, Emily Chessa, Briana Del Mundo, Emanuel Dostine, Michael Garcia, Orlando Harbutt, Kiana Jung, Pei Lun Lai, Chien-Shun Liao, Éline Malègue, Sarah Pippin, Vivian Ruiz, Rae Srivastava, Kaylin Sturtevant, Jacalyn Tatro, Sydney Tormey

Saturday May 11
Luca Afflito, Eduardo Jiménez Cabrera, Sidney Chuckas, Emily Chessa, Briana Del Mundo, Emanuel Dostine, Michael Garcia, Orlando Harbutt, Kiana Jung, Pei Lun Lai, Chien-Shun Liao, Éline Malègue, Benjamin Peralta, Sarah Pippin, Vivian Ruiz, Rae Srivastava, Kaylin Sturtevant, Jacalyn Tatro

Chamber is a visually rich echo of what Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* provokes in my imagination. Originally created as a joint commission for the 100th anniversary of the work, with a stunning score by Joby Talbot, *Chamber* is a primal, ritualistic piece which marked the beginning of my choreographic journey. Revisiting it with Ballet BC dancers breathes fresh air into the work, revealing undiscovered realms and possibilities. — Medhi Walerski

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INTERMISSION | 20 MINUTES







PHOTOS BY PETER SMIDA.

SWAY

World Premiere - November 1, 2019, NDT 2, The Hague
Ballet BC Premiere - May 9, 2024

CHOREOGRAPHY
Medhi Walerski

COMPOSER
Adrien Cronet

MUSIC
Composition by Adrien Cronet

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, Chorale Prelude BWV 659, by Johann Sebastian Bach
Transcribed by Ferruccio Busoni
Performed by Víkingur Ólafsson
Courtesy of Universal Music Canada / Licensed by Universal Music Canada

LIGHTING DESIGN
Lisette van der Linden & Pierre Pontvianne

LIGHTING DIRECTOR
Lisette van der Linden

COSTUME DESIGN
Medhi Walerski

STAGING
Justin Rapaport

PERFORMERS
Thursday May 9 + Saturday May 11
Luca Afflitto, Emily Chessa, Sidney Chuckas, Éline Malègue, Benjamin Peralta, Sarah Pippin, Sydney Tormey

Friday May 10
Emanuel Dostine, Michael Garcia, Orlando Harbutt, Kiana Jung, Pei Lun Lai, Chien-Shun Liao, Jacalyn Tatro

To me, *SWAY* embodies the essence of hope, capturing its delicate yet resilient nature. Inspired by the poetry of Emily Dickinson, the creation marked my first collaboration with Belgian composer Adrien Cronet. The piece is intimate, mysterious, and even elusive. It demands a great deal of attention from the dancers as they move through a fluid movement and repetition journey that echoes the spirit of collective optimism. — Medhi Walerski

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INTERMISSION | 20 MINUTES







PHOTOS BY PETER SMIDA.

Pieces of Tomorrow

World Premiere
Pieces of Tomorrow made possible through the generous support of an anonymous donor

CHOREOGRAPHY
Medhi Walerski

MUSIC
Violin Concerto in A minor BWV 1041 II Andante
Violin Concerto in D minor BWV 1052R I Allegro
Violin Concerto in E major BWV 1042 II Adagio
Violin Concerto in E major BWV 1042 III Allegro Assai
Violin Concerto in D minor BWV 1052R Adagio

Infinite Bach by Johan Ullén
Performed by Christian Svarfvar (violin) and the London Philharmonic Orchestra
By arrangement with Boosey and Hawkes, Inc., rights owner in the US and Canada for Gehrmans Musikforlag AB

Additional music by Adrien Cronet

LIGHTING DESIGN
Lisette van der Linden & Pierre Pontvianne

LIGHTING DIRECTOR
Lisette van der Linden

COSTUME DESIGN
Medhi Walerski

Associate Costume Design
Kate Burrows

ARTISTIC COLLABORATOR
Lyle XOX

ASSISTANT TO THE LIGHTING DESIGNER
Matthew Piton

PERFORMERS
Luca Afflitto, Eduardo Jiménez Cabrera, Emily Chessa, Sidney Chuckas, Briana Del Mundo, Emanuel Dostine, Michael Garcia, Orlando Harbutt, Kiana Jung, Pei Lun Lai, Chien-Shun Liao, Éline Malègue, Sarah Pippin, Vivian Ruiz, Rae Srivastava, Jacalyn Tatro, Kaylin Sturtevant, Sydney Tormey

The creation of *Pieces of Tomorrow* began with the concept of legacy. Drawing inspiration from Lyle XOX's sculptures made from found materials, the dancers and I aimed to create the choreography by exploring themes of destruction, creation, and reconstruction. Just as Lyle transforms materials, we focused on repurposing movement elements to breathe new life into them. Johan Ullen's recomposed violin sonatas from Bach deepened our exploration with a profound layer. The recycling of musical material echoed our approach, enriching our work with a sense of continuity and growth. Loss, transformation, and rebirth. The cyclical nature of artistic expression, and life.
— Medhi Walerski

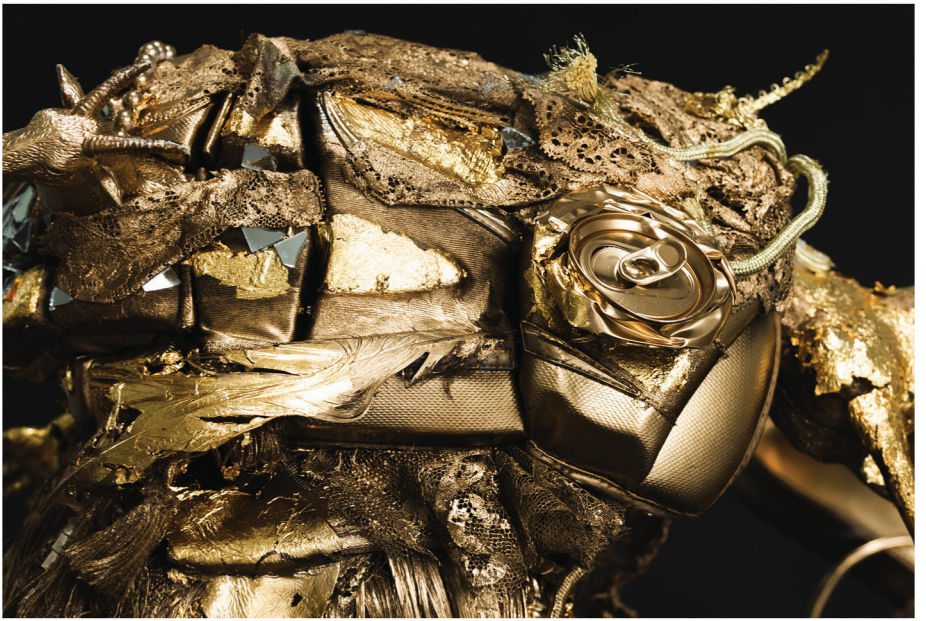






ARTISTS OF BALLET BC. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SLOBODIAN.












The Spirit of Creation

Inspiration always begins with the found objects themselves. Objects discovered or gifted from various parts of the globe, including discarded remnants from members of the Ballet BC family.

It was essential to use pieces that reflected life in its many facets; embracing all genders and telling a story of creation, transformation, loss and rebirth. A sculpture that encapsulated strength and fragility.

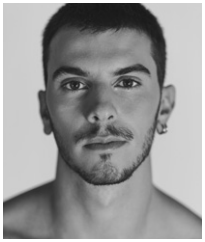
Medhi and I were instinctively drawn to the colour gold. A hue that is illuminating, sacred and precious; a colour with a spiritual connection.

The sculpture would live in the environment of movement, and so this particular piece was constructed in consideration of that. Watching it come alive on the dancer for the first time was an incredibly moving experience, a moment where two art forms bonded together.

— Lyle XOX

PHOTOS BY PETER SMIDA.

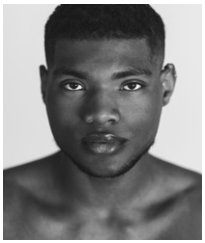
Company Artists
2023/24



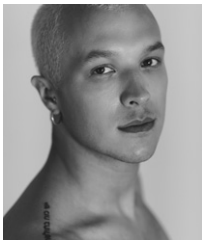
NAME: Luca Afflitto
HOMETOWN: Genoa, Italy
TRAINING: Academie de Danse Princesse Grace, Monte Carlo
PREVIOUSLY DANCED WITH: Ballett Zürich
JOINED BALLET BC: 2022



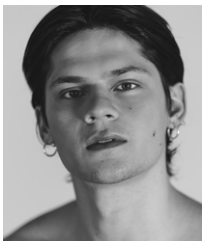
NAME: Emily Chessa
HOMETOWN: Richmond, British Columbia, Canada
TRAINING: Arts Umbrella
PREVIOUSLY DANCED WITH: Nederlands Dans Theater I
JOINED BALLET BC: 2012 - 2020 & 2021



NAME: Sidney Chuckas
HOMETOWN: Evanston, Illinois, USA
TRAINING: USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance
JOINED BALLET BC: 2021



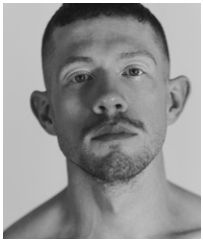
NAME: Michael Garcia
HOMETOWN: McAllen, Texas, USA
TRAINING: The Juilliard School
PREVIOUSLY DANCED WITH: Hubbard Street Dance Chicago
JOINED BALLET BC: 2022



NAME: Orlando Harbutt
HOMETOWN: Hudson, New York, USA
TRAINING: Manhattan Youth Ballet, The Juilliard School, Arts Umbrella
JOINED BALLET BC: 2022



NAME: Kiana Jung
HOMETOWN: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
TRAINING: Arts Umbrella
JOINED BALLET BC: 2019



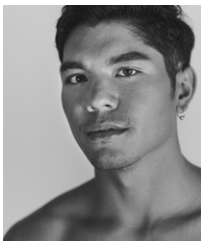
NAME: Patrick Kilbane
HOMETOWN: Bainbridge Island, Washington, USA
TRAINING: San Francisco Ballet School,
Pacific Northwest Ballet School
PREVIOUSLY DANCED WITH: Oregon Ballet Theater,
NW Dance Project, Whim W'Him
JOINED BALLET BC: 2017 - 2020 & 2022



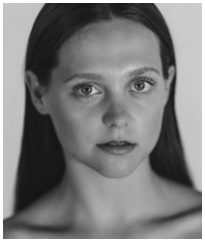
NAME: Chien-Shun Liao
HOMETOWN: Taichung, Taiwan
TRAINING: Taipei National University of the Arts
PREVIOUSLY DANCED WITH: Company Wayne McGregor
JOINED BALLET BC: 2023



NAME: Éline Malègue
HOMETOWN: Saint-Étienne, France
TRAINING: Paris Opera Ballet School,
San Francisco Ballet trainee program
PREVIOUSLY DANCED WITH: Victor Ullate Ballet,
Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal
JOINED BALLET BC: 2022



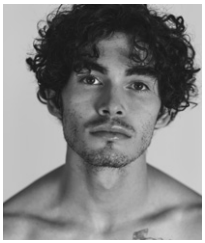
NAME: Benjamin Peralta
HOMETOWN: Jacksonville, Florida, USA
TRAINING: Douglas Anderson School of the Arts,
USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance
JOINED BALLET BC: 2022



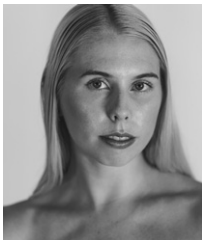
NAME: Sarah Pippin
HOMETOWN: Raleigh, North Carolina, USA
TRAINING: The Juilliard School
JOINED BALLET BC: 2020



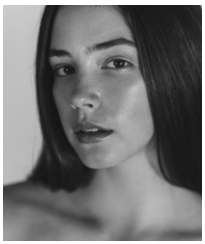
NAME: Vivian Ruiz
HOMETOWN: Miami, Florida, USA
TRAINING: Arts Umbrella
PREVIOUSLY DANCED WITH: Kidd Pivot
JOINED BALLET BC: 2022



NAME: Rae Srivastava
HOMETOWN: Austin, Texas, USA
TRAINING: USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance
JOINED BALLET BC: 2020

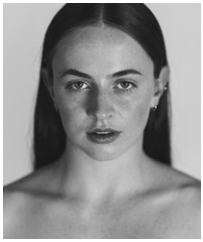


NAME: Kaylin Sturtevant
HOMETOWN: Plano, Texas, USA
TRAINING: USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance
PREVIOUSLY DANCED WITH: The DASH Ensemble
JOINED BALLET BC: 2021

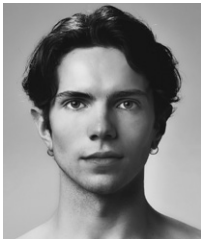


NAME: Jacalyn Tatro
HOMETOWN: Naperville, Illinois, USA
TRAINING: The Juilliard School
JOINED BALLET BC: 2022

Company Artists
2023/24



NAME: Sydney Tormey
HOMETOWN: Mapleton, Utah, USA
TRAINING: Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Arts Umbrella
JOINED BALLET BC: 2022

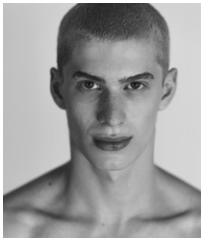


NAME: Jacob Williams (on leave)
HOMETOWN: Vancouver, Washington, USA
TRAINING: Alonzo King Lines Ballet, Arts Umbrella
PREVIOUSLY DANCED WITH: dawsondancesf, Oregon Ballet Theatre 2 (OBT2)
JOINED BALLET BC: 2020

Emerging Artists
2023/24



NAME: Briana Del Mundo
HOMETOWN: Calgary, Alberta, Canada
TRAINING: The School of Alberta Ballet, YYC Dance Project, The Juilliard School
JOINED BALLET BC: 2023



NAME: Emanuel Dostine
HOMETOWN: Detroit, Michigan, USA
TRAINING: Arts Umbrella
JOINED BALLET BC: 2022

Emerging Artists
2023/24



NAME: Eduardo Jiménez Cabrera
HOMETOWN: Irapuato, Mexico
TRAINING: The University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA
JOINED BALLET BC: 2023



NAME: Pei Lun Lai
HOMETOWN: Kaohsiung, Taiwan
TRAINING: Taipei National University Of The Arts
JOINED BALLET BC: 2023

FULL BIOGRAPHIES

DANCER HEADSHOTS BY PETER SMIDA



DANCER EMILY CHESSA. PHOTO BY PETER SMIDA.



MEDHI WALERSKI

Medhi Walerski became Artistic Director of Ballet BC in July 2020. Raised in France, he initially trained in Normandy with Laurie Bokobza and Christine Caroly before joining the Conservatoire Superieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris. Walerski danced at the Paris Opera Ballet and the Ballet du Rhin before joining the Nederlands Dans Theater in 2001. For more than a decade he was an integral part of the company, contributing to the creative, innovative style that NDT is famed for. He was awarded the Dutch dance prize VSCD *Zwaan* in 2013.

Walerski has worked closely with many renowned choreographers, creating alongside and performing works by Jiří Kylián, William Forsythe, Ohad Naharin, George Balanchine, Rudolf Nureyev, Paul Lightfoot and Sol Leon, Crystal Pite, Johan Inger, and Wayne McGregor among others. Walerski's choreographic debut was in 2008 for NDT 2. Since then, he has created numerous acclaimed works for NDT and Ballet BC including *Petite Cérémonie* (2011), *Chamber* (2012), *GARDEN* (2016) and *Silent Tides* (2021), as well as works for Bern Ballet, Goteborg Ballet, the Ballet State of Georgia, StaatBallet Hannover, Staattheater Wiesbaden and Charlotte Ballet. *Pieces of Tomorrow* is Medhi's sixth creation for Ballet BC.

As an educator, he is regularly invited to lecture and give workshops at dance conservatories and festivals around the world.



LYLE XOX

Our consumerist culture is filled with superfluous objects, many of which are past the point of use. For Lyle XOX, these discarded objects are more than their materials—they are filled with artistic possibility. The Vancouver-based artist has developed a practice that combines his experience in art, fashion, design and make-up artistry to create striking images using his own face and body as canvas and plinth. Surrounding himself with found objects, Lyle XOX creates facial sculptures and adornments to design fictional characters that defy gender, cultural and beauty norms. Each photographed portrait is a study in contrast and fantasy, with humour and irony woven throughout.

The mission through the work is to generate a newfound respect, to encourage and teach the viewer to honor the simple objects of everyday life. Once we see the value of these items, we are more conscious of our daily consumption, and how and why we discard items so easily. Lyle XOX aims to inspire the viewer and therefore people generally, to find creative ways in which they can elevate plastic waste and recycle/ upcycle objects into vessels for human connection and story telling.

After growing up in a small town of less than 200 people in rural Saskatchewan, Lyle relocated to Vancouver, attended Blanche MacDonald Centre for Applied Design, and worked for MAC Cosmetics for over fifteen years. Once Lyle decided to focus solely on his artistic practice, his career skyrocketed. In 2019, he was named one of *the Vogue World 100*, and released his book *Lyle XOX: Head of Design*—published by Rizzoli New York and launched at Bergdorf Goodman. Later that year, Lyle was hosted by both the Dutch fashion house Viktor & Rolf and Cirque du Soleil to witness his process. CBC produced a full-length documentary *Random is my Favourite Colour*, and three months later his book won an International Photography Award.

Lyle XOX has been featured in numerous international publications including ArtNet, Vogue Italia, Surface, V, New York Times, L'Officiel, DAZED, Montecristo and many others, and has collaborated with renowned musician and performer FKA Twigs as well as luxury brands Gucci, Comme des Garcons and Maison Margiela.



BALLET BC DANCERS. PHOTO BY MICHAEL SLOBODIAN.

Ballet BC Restaurant Partners

Introducing local restaurant partners for our 2023/24 season performances. Make a night of it and enjoy special offers from some of Vancouver's best restaurants, all just a short distance from the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

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- Bacchus at The Wedgewood Hotel
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Ballet BC Capital Campaign 2023/24

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Our heartfelt thanks to Stan Hamilton, Chair of the Relocation Committee, whose unrelenting dedication and countless hours contributed to this project have been invaluable, as well as to Dr. Kevin B Leslie, Chair of the Capital Campaign, and Arlene Gladstone for their dedication, leadership, and guidance.

Ballet BC relies on the generous support of our Founders Council members through our Annual Campaign. They provide critical funding for our programming. We highly value their belief in our mission and their dedication to the company. We extend our most sincere thanks to these individuals and foundations for their outstanding contributions.

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Jane McLennan
Don & Jane Shumka

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BALLET BC DANCER BRIANA DEL MUNDO. PHOTO BY MARCUS ERIKSSON.

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