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balletbc.com

26 *season* 40 *forty*

Cover 4 / 4

Artistic Director Medhi Walerski

Dancer — Imani Frazier

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forty

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This year, we celebrate 40 remarkable years of our company. A milestone that invites us to honour the artists, visionaries, and collaborators who have shaped us and contributed to the rich history of Ballet BC. Heritage and legacy guide us, reminding us that dance—though fleeting—carries meaning, intention, and memory across generations. This celebration is not just about looking back, but about recognizing possibilities.

For this singular season, we wanted to reflect on who we are today while celebrating the masters who have made a lasting impact on Ballet BC since its beginnings. What lies ahead is shaped by legacy and imagination, by the artists who have carried us here, as well as those who are propelling us forward—the fresh voices that are reshaping what this art form can be, challenging the way we approach process, movement, and storytelling. I am very excited about each creator who will share their artistry with us this year, from a new full evening by edgy Dutch duo Imre and Marne van Opstal, to a very special creation from our Artists-in-Residence Margaret Grenier and Starr Muranko, to a North American premiere by William Forsythe. Plus, a triple bill by Vancouver's own Crystal Pite whose relationship with Ballet BC reaches back to its beginnings. Combined with the unparalleled talent of our dancers, these performances will be something special.

This season also marks my final one as Artistic Director. I have treasured working alongside profound, diverse, inspiring people and continually learning about the human condition through their individualities. I love witnessing the artistic journeys of others and the care, generosity, and kindness present in the studio each day while upholding the demands and ethics of the creative process. It has been a privilege to help guide this living organism of creativity. I never tire of this work, and every day I am reminded of why we do it and why it matters.

Thank you for your support and for being part of this journey. Here's to the next 40.

With gratitude and excitement,



Medhi Walerski  
Artistic Director



# bodies & voices

nov 5/6/7 2026

Imre and Marne van Opstal

World Premiere

I'm afraid to forget your smile

Featuring the Vancouver Chamber Choir



Sidney Chuckas

# one & only

may 6/7/8/9 2027

Crystal Pite

Solo Echo

The Statement

Angels' Atlas



Imani Frazier

# everything you ever...

mar 4/5/6 2027

William Forsythe

Undertainment

Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber

Obsidian

Medhi Walerski

World Premiere

Margaret Grenier and Starr Muranko

World Premiere

David Dawson

On the Nature of Daylight

Featuring principal dancers from the National Ballet of Canada



Jacalyn Tatro



Kaylin Sturtevant, Michael Garcia, Sidney Chuckas

# takeform

june 11/12 + 18/19 2027

Created, choreographed, and produced by the dancers of Ballet BC.

# nutcracker

dec 9-13 2026

Performed by Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet



# *bodies & VOICES*

nov 5/6/7

## **An Evening with Imre & Marne van Opstal**

We open our season with a double bill from Dutch sibling choreographic duo Imre and Marne van Opstal, whose evocative work sees dance as a poetic, emotional laboratory—exploring the vulnerability of being human in all its rawness, beauty, and absurdity. Since their 2022 Ballet BC debut with the electric *Heart Drive*, their meteoric rise has included starry collaborations with the likes of Dior and FKA Twigs, Germany's prestigious Der Faust Award for the visionary and hallucinatory *Voodoo Waltz*, and major new commissions from the Gothenburg Opera Dance Company and the Paris Opera Ballet, among others. Experience their acclaimed *I'm afraid to forget your smile* along with a highly anticipated new creation.

## *i'm afraid to forget your smile*

*North American Premiere*

Choreography: Imre and Marne van Opstal

Movement and live vocals converge in this groundbreaking work for six dancers and 16 voices. Joined on stage by the Vancouver Chamber Choir in their first collaboration with the company, *I'm afraid to forget your smile* meditates on the moment of letting go as a transition to surrender and loss. In a series of mesmerizing solos and duets, part one explores the deeply personal struggle we all face with memory and emotion. In part two, the focus shifts to the collective, with striking group images that mirror the layered unity of the choir. Physically demanding and emotionally charged, the dancers move through raw, powerful choreography that reveals human fragility and our ability to face our own limitations.

## *new van opstal*

*World Premiere*

Choreography: Imre and Marne van Opstal

Building on a distinctive and evolving choreographic canon, the van Opstals share a world premiere with Vancouver audiences, their second creation for Ballet BC. The new work continues their ongoing artistic inquiry, which they describe as a "physical language hyper-attuned to the zeitgeist: layered in meaning and constantly searching the fringes of human experience." Expect a daring, conceptually rich journey that reflects the complexities of our time while boldly pushing into new expressive territory. A rare West Coast opportunity to witness the evolving vision of two of today's most sought-after voices in dance.

SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

Emanuel Dostine



# everything you ever...

*mar 4/5*

**William Forsythe**  
*Undertainment*

**Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber**  
*Obsidian*

**Medhi Walerski**  
*World Premiere*

*mar 6*

**William Forsythe**  
*Undertainment*

**Medhi Walerski**  
*World Premiere*

**Margaret Grenier and Starr Muranko**  
*World Premiere*

**David Dawson**  
*On the Nature of Daylight*

*Featuring principal dancers from  
the National Ballet of Canada*

The centrepiece of our 40th anniversary season, this era-defining weekend captures the essence of what Ballet BC has become: rooted in legacy, deeply collaborative, and fearless in its pursuit of bold, boundary-pushing creation. Across two programs, five distinct works come together to create a live dance experience like no other.

At Thursday and Friday evening performances, we present the North American premiere of William Forsythe's *Undertainment* and unveil a world premiere by Artistic Director Medhi Walerski, alongside the anticipated return of Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber's *Obsidian*.

In special one-day-only presentations, Saturday's audiences will experience a capsule creation from Artists-in-Residence Margaret Grenier and Starr Muranko—a reflection of the company's studio work with the choreographers over a five-year period. The program also features a poignant guest duet performed by dancers of the National Ballet of Canada, alongside *Undertainment* and Walerski's new work.

A landmark celebration four decades in the making.



## *undertainment*

North American Premiere  
Choreography: William Forsythe

The work of the incomparable William Forsythe returns to the Ballet BC stage with *Undertainment*. Called “fiendishly fascinating” (*The Guardian*) and “a mesmerizing new work” (*New York Times*), the visionary 2025 piece for 16 dancers starts with a signature toolbox of improvisational prompts, creating a structural order within which the performers can explore. Intended as a musical event as much as anything else, the dancers serve flexibly as instrumentalists, each with their own responsibilities and expertise in a self-generated system of sound and movement. A fresh and unmissable portrayal of commitment, risk, and imagination from a truly legendary creator.

Performed on: March 4/5/6

## *obsidian*

Choreography: Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber

*Obsidian* returns—an arresting creation from Ballet BC’s newly-appointed Resident Choreographers and voracious dancemakers Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber. Set to a score of rare and riveting 1920s piano compositions by George Gurdjieff and Thomas de Hartmann performed live on stage, the work unfolds through magnetic partnering, searing solos, and fiercely committed physicality. Infused with elements of traditional folk dance and movement language stemming from the duo’s Batsheva roots, *Obsidian* pulses with tension and intimacy.

Performed on: March 4/5

## *new walerski*

World Premiere  
Choreography: Medhi Walerski

Ballet BC Artistic Director and French choreographer Medhi Walerski unveils his ninth world premiere for the company, and final as its leader—an eagerly anticipated work that marks the culmination of a defining artistic chapter and the curation of a visionary and significant repertoire that is both fearless and unmistakable. The new creation promises to showcase the qualities that continue to highlight his artistic identity: bold imagination, rigorous craft, and an unwavering belief in the potential of the human body and the power of connection.

Performed on: March 4/5/6



## *new grenier / muranko*

World Premiere  
Choreography: Margaret Grenier and Starr Muranko

Created by Ballet BC Artists-in-Residence, choreographers, and arts leaders Margaret Grenier (Gitxsan/Mushkegowuck (Swampy Cree)) and Starr Muranko (Mushkegowuck (Swampy Cree)), this new offering is the culmination of a meaningful five-year relationship with the company and its 20 dancers. Shaped through shared space and collaboration since 2020, the original piece explores a journey grounded in trust and reciprocity. Drawing on Indigenous music and dance, Grenier and Muranko’s work weaves movement with embodied storytelling—honouring story, land, and lineage as living presences within the creative process and carrying forward teachings cultivated over time. A testament to what can emerge when artistic practice is rooted in mutual respect and collective discovery.

Performed on: March 6

## *on the nature of daylight*

Choreography: David Dawson  
Performed by Principal Dancers  
from the National Ballet of Canada

A special contribution from The National Ballet of Canada’s Sharing the Stage initiative in honour of their 75th anniversary and Ballet BC’s 40th: *On the Nature of Daylight*—a deeply moving pas de deux by the company’s resident choreographer David Dawson. Performed by guest principal dancers and set to a beloved score of the same name by British composer Max Richter, the breathtaking piece unfolds as a poetic meditation on love in all its complexity. Through sweeping movement and intimate connection, two dancers embody the universal search for one another, capturing the delicate tension between longing and fulfillment, closeness and distance. Powerful and profound, the work reflects the mysteries of love that shape our lives and bind us together.

Performed on: March 6

SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

# one & only

may 6/7/8/9

## An Evening with Crystal Pite

A full evening with one of the world's most iconic names in dance, Vancouver's Crystal Pite. This triple bill brings together three striking works that showcase the range and emotional depth of Pite's impressive choreographic canon. From a poignant ode to loss and acceptance performed in falling snow, to a razor-sharp commentary on power set around a boardroom table, to a sweeping ensemble work against an awe-inspiring curtain of light—experience the brilliance of *Solo Echo*, *The Statement*, and the BC premiere of *Angels' Atlas*. A fitting finale to a historic season, this unmissable event honours an artist whose connection with Ballet BC spans nearly four decades and whose unparalleled creativity and commitment continues to resonate deeply with audiences around the globe.



## *solo echo*

Choreography: Crystal Pite

The soulful and beloved *Solo Echo* returns to the Ballet BC stage for the first time since 2018. Performed to two sonatas by Johannes Brahms—touchstones for Pite at various points in her life—the work is a profound meditation on acceptance and loss. Seven dancers embody a single character reckoning with himself at the end of life, moving from nuanced duets and solos to a complex and expansive collective body. With further inspiration from Mark Strand's poem "Lines for Winter," the piece is set against a serene backdrop of falling snow, with elements of winter, music, and the moving body drawing the audience into a world of yearning and reflection.

## *the statement*

Choreography: Crystal Pite

*The Statement* is a striking one-act play that enthralls from beginning to end. Four dancers move to a brilliant and incisive script by Canadian playwright and frequent Pite collaborator Jonathon Young. Locked in a contest for power and control, the highly engaging characters are charged with fueling a conflict in a distant country, and tension escalates as they confront the ethical weight of their actions. Character "A" declares: "For generations they've been fighting. We used it as an opportunity—the attacks—the—for investment. For growth. We used it." A searing and particularly timely work from a pair of visionary creators.

## *angels' atlas*

Choreography: Crystal Pite

A breathtaking piece for 36 dancers, guest artists from Arts Umbrella and Modus Operandi join Ballet BC dancers for the Vancouver premiere of Pite's colossal *Angels' Atlas*. Light plays a starring role here as it dances on a pivoting, reflective topography, creating conditions for the unexpected to appear. Backed by a score of original music by Owen Belton and choral works by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Morten Lauridsen, the dancers embody humanity's impermanence in an immense and enigmatic world. *Angels' Atlas* charts the territories that exist beyond our understanding, continuing Pite's near-constant inquiry into the question of what moves us.

ADD-ON PERFORMANCE

# takeform

june 11/12 + 18/19

Choreography:  
The Dancers of Ballet BC

Ballet BC company artists take centre stage for the sixth edition of Take Form, bigger and bolder than ever! Entirely conceived, choreographed, produced, and performed by our dancers, this one-of-a-kind showcase in an intimate setting gives them the freedom to experiment, explore new ideas, and expand both their artistry and offstage skills. Company members are responsible for all aspects of advancing the production, from ticketing to marketing to scenic and costume design, and everything in between. A unique opportunity to develop versatile leadership skills that open doors beyond a performing career.

This year, Take Form grows into two distinct programs of new creations across two weekends, offering even more room for creative exploration. Known and loved by audiences year after year, this is a rare chance to witness the company in its most inventive and fearless form — a fun and engaging event where all bets are off, and the personal creativity of our dancers takes the reins.

Supported by



Kaylin Sturtevant, Michael Garcia, Sidney Chuckas

ADD-ON PERFORMANCE | CANADA'S ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET

# *nutcracker*

*dec 9 - 13*

Discover the timeless beauty of classical ballet with one of the season's most cherished holiday traditions. Ballet BC is delighted to welcome Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet back to the Vancouver stage with their iconic production of *Nutcracker*. Founded in 1939, the RWB is one of North America's most storied dance companies, celebrated for its rich legacy and its role in shaping generations of extraordinary Canadian artists through both its professional company and renowned school.

Choreography:  
Galina Yordanova  
Nina Menon  
RWB Artistic Staff

Composer:  
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Set to Tchaikovsky's beloved score, this enchanting production follows Clara and a cast of unforgettable characters on a journey filled with magic, adventure, and the wonder of winter. From sparkling snow scenes to the warmth of festive celebration, *Nutcracker* invites audiences of all ages to be swept away by its charm, nostalgia, and enduring spirit. Let your imagination take flight and experience the joy of the holidays brought to life on stage.

Performed by



3D artwork by Sumit Seru

## *tickets*

Subscriptions and Nutcracker tickets are on sale now. Single tickets for all 2026/27 performances at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver are on sale August 5, 2026 at [balletbc.com](http://balletbc.com).

## *subscription series*

Choose from Thursday, Friday, Saturday matinee, or Saturday evening series

Nov 5/6/7

**Bodies & Voices**

Mar 4/5/6

**Everything you ever...**

May 5/6/7/8

**One & Only**

## *add-on performances*

Olympic Village Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre  
June 11/12 + June 18/19

**Take Form**

Queen Elizabeth Theatre

Dec 9-13

**Nutcracker**



## *arts for all*

Thanks to the generous support of Simons, Ballet BC is proud to offer accessibly-priced tickets for Bodies & Voices, Everything you ever..., and One & Only at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Find \$19 Arts for All Seating in all levels across all performances.

Supported by



## *subscribe and save*

Become a Ballet BC subscriber and get the best deal in the house for all 2026/27 programs at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre (QET).

### **Ultimate value**

Get the best seats before anyone else at 20% off single ticket prices, plus 20% off additional tickets to all three season programs at the QET.

### **Early access**

Renew your same seats and get early access to add-on performances and season announcements.

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Exclusive invite to view company class on stage at the QET during performance week.

### **ArtsPerks**

Unique discounts at renowned Vancouver arts organizations throughout the year.

### **MOVE discount**

Get 20% off all MOVE adult dance, and yoga drop-in classes at Ballet BC on Granville Island.

### **Ticket exchanges**

Free ticket exchanges should your plans change.

### **Priority service**

The Ballet BC Audience Services team will handle all of your subscription needs.

Join the club at [balletbc.com/subscribe](http://balletbc.com/subscribe)

## *group rates and community tickets*

For specific inquiries regarding special rates for groups of 10 or more or Indigenous Peoples access through our Community Comps program, email our Audience Services department directly at [tickets@balletbc.com](mailto:tickets@balletbc.com).

## *subscriber+*

Whether you're a long-time subscriber or new to the club, donate \$100 more to become a Subscriber+ member and unlock extra perks. Your support makes Ballet BC's work possible, on stage and off.

### **Take Form early access**

Be the first to access the best seats in the house for the dancer-led program Take Form at the BMO Theatre Centre's Olympic Village Stage.

### **Save on Nutcracker**

Get 20% off up to four tickets for Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Nutcracker.

### **Name recognition**

Your name included in our house program and annual impact report.

### **Digital extras**

Exclusive access to digital extras and behind-the-scenes content.

## *questions?*

Contact us by email or phone during ticket office hours, Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm.

[tickets@balletbc.com](mailto:tickets@balletbc.com)

604 638 1184

# ballet bc annex

Ballet BC Annex provides school-aged students across the province with a unique opportunity to experience professional contemporary dance. Each season, a junior company of Annex dancers—drawn from Vancouver-based training institutions Arts Umbrella and Modus Operandi—perform on tour throughout BC, sharing repertoire by emerging and established choreographers and offering engaging workshops to young audiences. In addition to bringing world-class dance to schools and communities with limited access to the arts, the program serves as a vital stepping stone for pre-professional dancers, building their stage experience and offering an opportunity to collaborate with emerging choreographers.

This season, Ballet BC Annex will premiere new creations by BC-based choreographer Cameron Sink<sup>™</sup> Fraser-Monroe and Ballet BC company artist Michael Garcia, and share a reimagining of *Last Flower* by Vancouver's Out Innerspace, commissioned by the company in 2024.

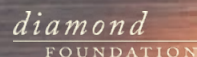
Learn more at [balletbc.com/annex](http://balletbc.com/annex)

# education and engagement

Ballet BC's Education & Engagement programs bring the magic of dance beyond the stage, into communities across Vancouver and throughout BC. Guided by our commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA), these programs are organized around three pillars: Moving Schools, Moving Communities, and Moving Ideas. From subsidized in-school dance workshops, to open dress rehearsals, to senior-focused Ageless Dancers programs, Ballet BC creates a variety of opportunities for people of all ages to experience the joy of movement. Our partnerships with a variety of community-serving organizations help expand access to dance, nurture creativity, and foster meaningful connections with those who may not otherwise have access to the arts.

Learn more at [balletbc.com/education](http://balletbc.com/education)

Supported by



Kaylin Sturtevant



# support the company

As a registered non-profit organization, Ballet BC relies on the generosity of our donor community—your ongoing support is essential to the future of Ballet BC. Every gift helps fund artistic programming, expand arts education initiatives, and keep performances affordable and accessible.

Get closer to our artists by donating today and enjoy exclusive perks: studio rehearsals, special events, merchandise discounts, and more.

## Support from \$5,000 — Dancers Circle+

Dancers Circle+ supporters receive the same benefits as the Founders Council (\$1500+) plus an invitation to attend private VIP rehearsals with choreographer Q&As and personalized benefits.

## Support from \$1,500

Founders Council donors enjoy one-of-a-kind engagement opportunities, including opening night receptions.

## Support from \$500

With contributions of \$500 or more, receive exclusive event invitations, MOVE program discounts, merchandise perks, and opportunities to connect with our artistic team.

## Support from \$100

Become a Subscriber+ member and enjoy flexible ticket exchanges, early access to performances, Nutcracker discounts, and more.

## Major Gifts, Monthly Giving & Legacy Planning

Make a lasting impact and help build Ballet BC as a world-class hub for artistic creation in Vancouver. Contact our development team to explore higher-level support and sponsorship opportunities.

Learn more at [balletbc.com/support](http://balletbc.com/support)





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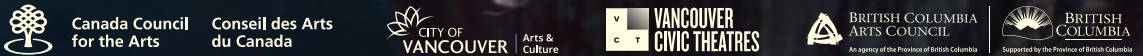
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Ballet BC is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples—the x<sup>m</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy'em (Musqueam), skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səl'ilwətaʔɨ (Tseil Waututh) First Nations.

Creative / art direction, photography, design, layout and post production by Marcus Eriksson (themarcus.com)

Custom typeface by Marcus Eriksson & Sam Dallyn.

