

Ballet BC

FRONTIER • SWAY • BOLERO X

With 24 performers • with 7 performers • with 24 performers



CYCLE {mémoire
& héritage}



BOLERO X

Thursday 22 & Friday 23 January 2026 • 7.30pm

At the Grand Théâtre

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Running time **1h10 & 2 intermissions**

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Frontier

World Premiere – September 11, 2008, NDT 1

Ballet BC Premiere – November 7, 2024

Choreography **Crystal Pite**

Rehearsal Directors **Renee Sigouin, Emily Chessa**

Music **Original Composition by Owen Belton**

“Lux Aurumque” and “Sleep”

Music by Eric Whitacre, Words by Charles Anthony Silvestri

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Recordings from *Whitacre: Cloudburst, & Other Choral Works* by Polyphony, Stephen Layton, conductor (Hyperion Records)

Scenic Design **Jay Gower Taylor**

Lighting Design **Tom Visser**

Costume Design **Nancy Bryant**

Associate Costume Design **Kate Burrows**

Performers

Ballet BC **Luca Afflitto, Nathan Bear, Sidney Chuckas, Emanuel Dostine, Imani Frazier, Michael Garcia, Joziah German, Orlando Harbutt, Eduardo Jiménez Cabrera, Emma Kuusela, Kiana Jung, Pei Lun Lai, Kelsey Lewis, Kylie Miller, Benjamin Peralta, Vivian Ruiz, Kaylin Sturtevant, Jacalyn Tatro, Stan Tonin, Kailey Worontsoff**

For **24 dancers**

Running time **28 minutes**

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SWAY

World Premiere – November 1 2019, NDT 2

Ballet BC Premiere – May 9, 2024

Choreography **Medhi Walerski**

Rehearsal Director **Emily Chessa**

Music **Original 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 **Deutsche Grammophon GmbH under license from Universal Music Canada Inc.**

Lighting Design **Lisette van der Linden & Pierre Pontvianne**

Costume Design **Medhi Walerski**

Set Design **Medhi Walerski**

Performers

January 22 **Luca Afflitto, Sidney Chuckas, Kiana Jung, Pei Lun Lai, Benjamin Peralta, Kaylin Sturtevant, Jacalyn Tatro**

January 23 **Emanuel Dostine, Imani Frazier, Michael Garcia, Orlando Harbutt, Kelsey Lewis, Kylie Miller, Vivian Ruiz**

For **7 dancers**

Running time **20 minutes**

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BOLERO X

World Premiere – November 2, 2023, Ballet BC

Choreography **Shahar Binyamini**

Rehearsal Directors **Emily Chessa, Sarah Pippin**

Music **Boléro M. 81, by Maurice Ravel**

Performed by Berlin Philharmoniker and Pierre Boulez

Courtesy of Deutsche Grammophon GmbH under license from Universal Music Canada Inc.

Lighting Design **Shahar Binyamini**

Associate Lighting Design **Matthew Piton**

Costume Design **Shahar Binyamini**

Associate Costume Design **Kate Burrows**

Performers **Luca Afflitto, Nathan Bear, Sidney Chuckas,**

Emanuel Dostine, Imani Frazier, Michael Garcia, Joziah

German, Orlando Harbutt, Eduardo Jiménez Cabrera,

Emma Kuusela, Kiana Jung, Pei Lun Lai, Kelsey Lewis, Kylie

Miller, Benjamin Peralta, Vivian Ruiz, Kaylin Sturtevant,

Jacalyn Tatro, Stan Tonin, Kailey Worontsoff

Arts Umbrella **Amillya (Milly) Beech, Ana Garraway,**

Robyn Neumann, Jayda Zhu

For **24 dancers**

Running time **15 minutes**

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Production **Ballet BC**

BALLET BC

EN

Frontier

Crystal Pite's visionary, enigmatic *Frontier* examines the unknown—the characterization of dark matter, the personification of shadows. “As a creator, I find a pleasing parallel between what we don't know about the universe, and what we don't know about consciousness” says Pite. “Creation for me is about venturing into unknown territory and being in a generative relationship with doubt.”

SWAY

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

BOLERO X

In this new take on Maurice Ravel's iconic work, choreographer Shahar Binyamini continues to explore the power of repetition and the new meanings that emerge from the connection between the music written in 1928 and the choreography performed today. In a thrilling display of strength and precision, the full company takes the stage for a bold exploration of unity, individuality, and power—culminating in a breathtaking crescendo of sound and movement. A pure celebration of the power of dance.

The creation of BOLERO X was made possible through the generous support of The Azrieli Foundation, Josh Pekarsky and Marla Guralnick in honour of Arlene Gladstone; Karen James; Trudy and Dan Pekarsky; Arlene James; The Oasis Foundation; Shirley Barnett; Roberta Beiser; and Jeanie Wexler.

Frontier

Visionnaire et énigmatique, *Frontier* de Crystal Pite explore l'inconnu : la caractérisation de la matière noire, la personification des ombres. « En tant que créatrice, je trouve un parallèle intéressant entre ce que nous ignorons de l'univers et ce que nous ignorons de la conscience », explique Pite. « Pour moi, créer, c'est s'aventurer en territoire inconnu et entretenir une relation générative avec le doute. »

SWAY

Pour moi, *SWAY* incarne l'essence même de l'espoir, capturant sa nature délicate mais résiliente. Inspirée par la poésie d'Emily Dickinson, cette création a marqué ma première collaboration avec le compositeur belge Adrien Cronet. La pièce est intime, mystérieuse, voire insaisissable. Elle exige une grande attention de la part des danseurs, qui évoluent dans un voyage fait de mouvements fluides et de répétitions qui font écho à l'esprit d'optimisme collectif. — Medhi Walerski

BOLERO X

Dans cette nouvelle interprétation de l'œuvre emblématique de Maurice Ravel, le chorégraphe Shahar Binyamini continue d'explorer le pouvoir de la répétition et les nouvelles significations qui émergent du lien entre la musique écrite en 1928 et la chorégraphie interprétée aujourd'hui. Dans une démonstration palpitante de force et de précision, toute la compagnie monte sur scène pour une exploration audacieuse de l'unité, de l'individualité et du pouvoir, qui culmine dans un crescendo époustouflant de sons et de mouvements. Une pure célébration du pouvoir de la danse.

La création de BOLERO X a été rendue possible grâce au généreux soutien de la Fondation Azrieli, de Josh Pekarsky et Marla Guralnick en l'honneur d'Arlene Gladstone, de Karen James, de Trudy et Dan Pekarsky, d'Arlene James, de la Fondation Oasis, de Shirley Barnett, de Roberta Beiser et de Jeanie Wexler.

Frontier

Crystal Pites visionäres, rätselhaftes Werk *Frontier* untersucht das Unbekannte – die Charakterisierung dunkler Materie, die Personifizierung von Schatten. „Als Kunstschaaffende finde ich eine reizvolle Parallele zwischen dem, was wir über das Universum nicht wissen, und dem, was wir über das Bewusstsein nicht wissen“, sagt Pite. „Für mich bedeutet Kreativität, sich auf unbekanntes Terrain zu begeben und eine fruchtbare Beziehung zum Zweifel einzugehen.“

SWAY

Für mich verkörpert SWAY die Essenz der Hoffnung und fängt ihre zarte und doch widerstandsfähige Natur ein. Inspiriert von der Poesie Emily Dickinsons war diese Kreation meine erste Zusammenarbeit mit dem belgischen Komponisten Adrien Cronet. Das Stück ist intim, geheimnisvoll und sogar schwer fassbar. Es verlangt den Tänzern viel Aufmerksamkeit ab, während sie sich durch eine Reise aus fließenden Bewegungen und Wiederholungen bewegen, die den Geist des kollektiven Optimismus widerspiegeln. — Medhi Walerski

BOLERO X

In dieser Neuinterpretation von Maurice Ravels ikonischem Werk setzt Choreograf Shahar Binyamini seine Erforschung der Kraft der Wiederholung und der neuen Bedeutungen fort, die sich aus der Verbindung zwischen der 1928 komponierten Musik und der heute aufgeführten Choreografie ergeben. In einer spannenden Darbietung von Kraft und Präzision betritt das gesamte Ensemble die Bühne, um sich auf eine kühne Erkundung von Einheit, Individualität und Kraft zu begeben, die in einem atemberaubenden Crescendo aus Klang und Bewegung gipfelt. Eine reine Feier der Kraft des Tanzes.

Die Entstehung von BOLERO X wurde durch die großzügige Unterstützung der Azrieli Foundation, Josh Pekarsky und Marla Guralnick zu Ehren von Arlene Gladstone, Karen James, Trudy und Dan Pekarsky, Arlene James, der Oasis Foundation, Shirley Barnett, Roberta Beiser und Jeanie Wexler ermöglicht.



Frontier



BOLERO X



SWAY



SWAY

BIOGRAPHIES

Ballet BC

Led by Artistic Director Medhi Walerski, Ballet BC is Canada's preeminent contemporary dance company. Founded in 1986 by David Y. H. Lui, Jean Orr and Sheila Begg, with Annette av Paul as founding Artistic Director, Ballet BC has been at the forefront of the creation, production, and education of contemporary dance in Canada and around the world for almost 40 years. Ballet BC aims to create dance at its most essential: visceral, thought-provoking, and transformative. Attracting top international talent, its twenty dancers are a group of open-minded and curious artists, each unique for their dynamic movement while sharing an intuitive passion for their art form. The company is deeply committed to creation and collaboration and presents a diverse repertoire that seeks to push the art form forward. Choreographers include William Forsythe, Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar, Medhi Walerski, Crystal Pite, Johan Inger, Imre and Marne van Opstal, Adi Salant, Jiří Kylian, Micaela Taylor, Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber, and Out Innerspace. Through its bold and distinctive style and approach, Ballet BC has made a unique contribution to the awareness and development of dance in Canada and around the world. The company performs throughout each season at Vancouver's Queen Elizabeth Theatre, and on tour at the world's most renowned stages. Beyond its performances, the company is a leader and resource in the community through a wide range of education and professional development initiatives, which aim to share the power of dance with the widest audience possible.

Crystal Pite

CHOREOGRAPHER

In a choreographic career spanning thirty-five years, Crystal Pite has created more than sixty works for companies such

as The Paris Opera Ballet, The Royal Ballet, and the National Ballet of Canada. She is an Associate Artist at three institutions: Nederlands Dans Theater, Sadler's Wells (London) and Canada's National Arts Centre. She holds an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Simon Fraser University and is a Member of the Order of Canada. In 2002, she formed her company Kidd Pivot in Vancouver. Kidd Pivot tours internationally with works such as *Betroffenheit*, *Revisor* and *Assembly Hall*, (co-created with Jonathon Young) as well as *The Tempest Replica*, *Dark Matters*, *Lost Action*, and *The You Show*.

Medhi Walerski

CHOREOGRAPHER

Raised in France, Walerski danced at the Paris Opera Ballet and the Ballet du Rhin before joining Nederlands Dans Theater in 2001. For more than a decade he contributed to NDT's famed innovative style, and was awarded the Dutch dance prize VSCD Zwaan in 2013. Walerski has created with and performed works by Jiří Kylián, William Forsythe, Ohad Naharin, Paul Lightfoot and Sol Leon, Crystal Pite, Johan Inger, and Wayne McGregor among others. Since his choreographic debut in 2008, he has created numerous acclaimed works for NDT and Ballet BC including *Petite Cérémonie* (2011), *Chamber* (2012), *Romeo and Juliet* (2018), *Silent Tides* (2020), *just BEFORE right AFTER* (2022), *Pieces of Tomorrow* (2024), and *Last light* (2025), as well as works for Bern Ballet, Goteborg Ballet, Staatsballett Hannover, Charlotte Ballet, and more. Medhi Walerski was appointed Artistic Director of Ballet BC in July 2020. His leadership tenure has been highlighted by an artist-centred approach and deep commitment to creation and innovation, an expanded global touring program, increased dancer compensation and equity, a world-renowned brand identity, and unprecedented audience growth. As an educator, he is regularly invited to lecture and give workshops at dance conservatories, intensives, and festivals around the world.

Shahar Binyamini

CHOREOGRAPHER

Shahar Binyamini is an internationally acclaimed choreographer, dancer, and director whose work merges the worlds of dance, science, and design. His tenure with the Batsheva Dance Company (2006–2013) showcased his interpretative prowess with choreographers Ohad Naharin and Sharon Eyal. Shahar's impact extends globally, leaving an indelible mark on prestigious dance companies including Ballet of Teatro alla Scala, Opera Ballet Flanders, Bordeaux National Ballet, Gauthier Dance Company, Norrdans, Ballet du Rhin, São Paulo Dance Company, Slovak National Ballet and Armenian National Ballet, and Ballet BC. Acknowledging his outstanding contributions, Shahar Binyamini received the Israeli Minister of Culture Award for Promising Choreographer in 2021. In 2022, his choreographic work was commissioned to open Shanghai Fashion Week as well as for the music video for SZA's chart-topping song "SNOOZE". In 2013, alongside Prof. Atan Gross from the Weizmann Institute for Science, Shahar founded TNUDA — a pioneering research group at the confluence of dance, science, and choreography. He has also been a guest professor at UCLA, leaving his mark with *LUNG*, a creation for the opera and dance department.

BALLET BC

Artistic Director **Medhi Walerski**

Managing Director **Kathy MacKenzie**

Manager of People and Culture **Samin Abaei**

Stage Electrician **Chengyan Boon**

Head of Wardrobe **Kate Burrows**

Rehearsal Director **Emily Chessa**

Artistic and Audience Services Assistant: **Madison Coulter**

MOVE and Rentals Manager **Katherine Cowie**

Production Stage Carpenter **William Dettlaff**

Manager of Education and Engagement **Marco Esccer**

Controller **Wan-Li Gibson**

Artistic Coordinator **Lyneil Gray**

Associate Artistic Producer **Colette Habel**
Manager of Individual Giving **Julia Halbert**
Stage Technician **Jaspar Irwin**
Production Electrician **Taylor Janzen**
Individual Giving Coordinator **Juneida Abdul Jabber**
Creative Content Producer **Duy Le**
Director of Production **Derek Mack**
Marketing Specialist **Rachel McCallion**
Graphic Designer **Christopher McCluskey**
Senior Touring and Company Manager **Kate McMillan**
Director of Marketing and Communications **Claire Mohun**
Stage Carpenter and Audio **Dan O'Shea**
Lighting Director **Matthew Piton**
MOVE and Intensives Coordinator **Alina Quarin**
Audience Services Manager **Mikaela Sanders**
Director of Development **Michael Schwartz**
Accountant **Maryam Taghi**
Facilities Manager **Daria Valujeva**
Stage Manager **Linzi Voth**
Artists in Residence **Dancers of Damelahamid, Raven Spirit Dance**
Company Artists **Luca Afflitto, Sidney Chuckas, Emanuel Dostine, Imani Frazier, Michael Garcia, Joiah German, Orlando Harbutt, Eduardo Jiménez Cabrera, Kiana Jung, Pei Lun Lai, Kelsey Lewis, Kylie Miller, Benjamin Peralta, Vivian Ruiz, Kaylin Sturtevant, Jacalyn Tatro**
Emerging Artists **Nathan Bear, Emma Kuusela, Stan Tonin, Kailey Worontsoff**

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BC Arts Council

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Government of Canada

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Martin Zimmermann

LOUISE



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