



BalletX
at The Wilma Theater
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BalletX Enters Fifth Season at The Wilma Theater with

Fall Series 2011: Two World Premieres and the Return of a Favorite

PHILADELPHIA: BalletX opens the 2011-2012 Season this fall with groundbreaking collaborations, nationally renowned artists, and unique explorations of personal perception.

BalletX *Fall Series 2011* will present a **World Premiere** choreographed by Co-Artistic Director **Matthew Neenan** set to an original score by award-winning composer **Robert Maggio**. The piece draws inspiration from the students of Andrew Jackson Public School in South Philadelphia. Also presented will be the **World Premiere, *Layer Cake***, by New York City-choreographer **Loni Landon**. Lastly, the BalletX original, *Silt* (2009), by San Francisco choreographer **Alex Ketley** will return.

Performances will be held at the Wilma Theater, November 16–20, 2011.

Matthew Neenan's work is the first installment of *Inside the Mind of the Composer and Choreographer*, BalletX's innovative education venture funded by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Composers Forum.

Collaborating with Neenan on this new residency project is composer **Robert Maggio**, whose work has been performed by the Boston Pops, the Atlanta Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, among others. Maggio is a recipient of awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Pew Fellowship of the Arts. This performance marks Neenan's and Maggio's third collaboration following *Le Travail* (2003) for Pennsylvania Ballet

and *Vibrate* (2005) for BalletX.

Inside the mind of the Composer and Choreographer includes improvisations derived from discussions with the students about their cultural influences, musical preferences, and personal aspirations. The process will be filmed and later viewed at the Wilma Theater by the Jackson student body. The process culminates during an original *Fall Series 2011* performance in which BalletX dancers will perform to music live on stage by two cellists from Network for New Music.

Neenan says: “I am tremendously excited about this project. It’s wonderful to collaborate with Robert, but what makes this even more special is the artistic beauty offered by each of the Andrew Jackson Public School students.”

The second premiere, *Layer Cake*, is choreographed by **Loni Landon**. BalletX Co-artistic director Christine Cox says of her work: “Loni is an extraordinarily talented choreographer. She caught our attention because of her incredible ability to move dancers and inspire deep emotion.” *Layer Cake* embarks on a journey into the senses which unravels the protective barriers of the human spirit and features music by Alva Noto, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Loscil, and Johan Johansson.

Landon is co-founder of The Playground initiative, winner of Northwest Dance Project’s “Pretty Creatives,” and has been featured in *Dance Magazine*.

Fall Series 2011 also features the return of the critically acclaimed 2009 BalletX premiere of *Silt* by **Alex Ketley**. Ketley’s piece is a compelling exploration of the loss of personal identity set to music by Chris Clark, Giovanni Pergolesi, and Arvo Pärt (Mixed by Tar © JMB). “Philadelphia dance is rich and unique and BalletX has clearly become an important part of the city’s artistic tapestry,” says Ketley. “*Silt* is a piece I really care about so I’m thrilled it will be performed again as part of that broader matrix.”

Ketley is a San Francisco-based choreographer and Co-Artistic Director of The Foundry. A former member of San Francisco Ballet, he is the recipient of the Princess Grace

Award for Choreography in addition to an array of other awards and scholarships.

Members of the press are invited to attend Opening Night, Wednesday, November 16, at 8 PM. For Press Tickets, please contact Johnny Van Heest, 302.593.2586 or publicity@balletx.org.

Special Events

During *Fall Series 2011*, BalletX will feature special, on-stage audience conversations with the artistic staff, choreographers, and company dancers providing patrons with the unique opportunity to engage directly in dialogue with the artists.

Performance Dates/Times:

Wednesday, November 16, 8:00 PM, Opening Night, with post-performance Q&A

Thursday, November 17, 8:00 PM

Friday, November 18, 8:00 PM

Saturday, November 19, 2:00 PM, with post-performance Q&A

Saturday, November 19, 8:00 PM

Sunday, November 20, 2:00 PM

BalletX's 2011-2012 Season Sponsors:

Comcast, The William Penn Foundation, Wells Fargo and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

About BalletX

Founded in 2005, BalletX is an innovative and adventurous company that produces sophisticated and striking choreography reflective of a vision to integrate athleticism, emotion, and intimacy. Recognizing the synergistic power of artistic collaboration, BalletX taps into the creativity and passion of a diverse pool of U.S. and international choreographers who produce work that is both surprising and compelling.

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