



BalletX  
at The Wilma Theater  
265 South Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
[www.BalletX.org](http://www.BalletX.org)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BalletX continues the 2011- 2012 Season with a World Premiere by acclaimed choreographer Jodie Gates and works by Edwaard Liang and Matthew Neenan for *Spring Series 2012***

**Philadelphia** – BalletX continues the 2011-2012 Season with three intriguing works by nationally and internationally recognized choreographers, **Jodie Gates, Edwaard Liang, and Matthew Neenan**. In *Spring Series 2012*, BalletX will explore a diverse repertoire of music and dance with choreography set to the music of J.S. Bach and American indie rock band Beirut. **Performances will be held at the Wilma Theater, April 18 - 22, 2012.**

**Members of the press are invited to attend Opening Night, Wednesday, April 18, at 8 PM. For Press Tickets, please contact Johnny Van Heest, 302.593.2586 or [jvanheest@balletx.org](mailto:jvanheest@balletx.org).**

About Spring Series 2012, BalletX Co-Artistic Director Christine Cox remarks, “This is going to be a very special program because the ballets we are bringing back resonate in your heart years after seeing them and we are thrilled to have Jodie come back and create something new for the company.”

The first piece in *Spring Series 2012* is a **World Premiere** by former Joffrey and Pennsylvania Ballet Principal Dancer **Jodie Gates** who returns to BalletX with an all-new work following her 2009 debut *Le Baiser Inévitable* (The Inevitable Kiss). Gates boasts an outstanding body of work, has choreographed for Berlin’s Staatsballett and Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet in New York City, and is a recipient of an Altria Fellowship. **(cont.)**

About the World Premiere, choreographer Jodie Gates remarks, “I am thrilled to be invited to create for BalletX once again; this company is truly one of the best contemporary dance companies in the nation and there is nothing more invigorating than to collaborate with incredible dancers on a new creation. My hope with this new work is to display the individual vulnerability and athletic precision of the entire cast of dancers. There will be a sense of intimacy built into the piece that will be unique and different than any other work I have done prior.”

The series will continue with *Largo* by internationally recognized choreographer **Edwaard Liang** which had its BalletX premiere in 2009. The piece is set to the music of J.S. Bach’s *Goldberg Variations* and inspired by the decorative tableaux *Progress of Love* by French painter Jean-Honore Fragonard. His choreography is featured on the Kirov Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, and New York City Ballet, among others.

Lastly, BalletX will present *The Last Glass* by **Matthew Neenan** which received critical acclaim during its 2010 premiere. *The Last Glass* is a striking and whimsical ballet set to the music of American indie rock band Beirut. Cox says “The ballet was an instant favorite of our audiences and we sold out performances during the summer 2010 premiere.” Neenan has received numerous awards and public recognition for his choreography from the National Endowment of the Arts, The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through Dance Advance, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Choo San Goh Foundation and The Jerome Robbins NEW Program Fellowship, among others.

BalletX is pleased to announce that it will return the popular **eXpand the eXperience** program with surprise pop-up performances by local artists during *Spring Series 2012*.

### **Special Events**

During *Spring Series 2012*, BalletX will feature special, on-stage audience conversations with the artistic staff, choreographers, and company dancers which will provide patrons with the unique opportunity to engage directly in dialogue with the artists.

**(cont.)**

**Performance Dates/Times:**

**Wednesday, April 18**, 8:00 PM, Opening Night, with post-performance Q&A

**Thursday, April 19**, 8:00 PM

**Friday, April 20**, 8:00 PM

**Saturday, April 21**, 2:00 PM, with post-performance Q&A

**Saturday, April 21**, 8:00 PM

**Sunday, April 22**, 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.**

**BalletX's *Spring Series 2012* Sponsor:**

**Philadelphia Weekly**

**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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