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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HOT SUMMER DANCING** **BalletX Celebrates Season Finale with Summer Series 2009**

PHILADELPHIA: Contemporary ballet company BalletX celebrates the end of its second season at The Wilma Theater and presents Summer Series 2009, July 22-26. Full of innovative flavor, the program features a world premiere by Jodie Gates in her first BalletX commission, danced to Ravel's *Bolero*, and two classic BalletX favorites: *Scenes View 2* by Jorma Elo and *Broke Apart* by Matthew Neenan.

"The movement, the sense of quiet fierceness about it... It will be physical, sensual, abstract and visually stunning," Jodie Gates describes *Le Baiser Inévitable* (The Inevitable Kiss), her premiere ballet for eight dancers set to *Bolero* and original music by Jack Eddy.

**Jodie Gates** is well-known in the region: she was a principal ballerina with The Pennsylvania Ballet during 1995-2000. She has also performed as a lead dancer for Joffrey Ballet, Frankfurt Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, San Francisco Ballet and others.

Ms. Gates, a founder of CaDance/ Laguna Dance Festival, CA, is thrilled to return to Philadelphia to collaborate with her former colleagues from The Pennsylvania Ballet: "Philadelphia is a very artistic community; it has this Renaissance happening in the city cultivating art and new sense of thinking about dance."

**Jorma Elo's** *Scenes View 2* is a juxtaposition of hip-hop and classical ballet for seven dancers who never leave the stage. The piece is set to J.S. Bach's *Partita No. 2 in D Minor for Solo Violin* and opens with spoken dialogue from *Carmen*, the play. *Scenes View 2* is marked by high energy and detailed isolated movements, showcasing the dancers' strengths. A former dancer with Netherlands Dance Theater, Jorma Elo has created work for dance companies around the world. He is presently the resident choreographer of The Boston Ballet.

In addition to the cast of seven dancers, **Matthew Neenan's** *Broke Apart* is distinguished by a landmark feature: a set of four portable bars, a clever prop designed by Matthew Pappajohn.

"The set was originally built for my other ballet, *Wonder Why*, but we used it very minimally there. I knew I could do much more with it and was inspired to create this fun piece, with very athletic, almost gymnast-like moves," explains Neenan. "The bars have life of their own, they can be taken apart and put together again, hence the title *Broke Apart*. It became a metaphor of life's shifts and barriers that we put up."

*Broke Apart* is danced to a compilation of songs by female artists: Joanna Newsom, Cynthia Hopkins, Martha Wainwright, and a female duet She-Haw.

*Scenes View 2* by Jorma Elo and *Broke Apart* by Matthew Neenan both premiered in the 2006 Philadelphia Live Arts Festival.

Summer Series 2009 features dancers: Amy Aldridge\*, Laura Feig, James Ihde\*, Jermel Johnson\*, Tara Keating, Anitra Nurnberger, Matthew Prescott, Francis Veyette\*, Kevin Yee-Chan (\* *guest dancer from The Pennsylvania Ballet*). Costume design by Martha Chamberlain. Lighting design by Drew Billiau.

**Performance Times:**

Wednesday, 7/22 at 8 pm,  
Thursday, 7/23 at 8 pm,  
Friday, 7/24 at 8 pm,  
Saturday, 7/25 at 8 pm,  
Sunday, 7/26 at 2 pm.

**Tickets:** \$30 General, \$25 Senior, \$20 Student, at the Wilma Theater Box Office, 265 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, call 215-546-7824 or at [www.WilmaTheater.org](http://www.WilmaTheater.org). Groups of 10 save 20%. More information at [www.BalletX.org](http://www.BalletX.org).

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