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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BalletX Annual *The Premier Party* to Honor
Damian Woetzel and Janet and Jim Averill
SKY Philadelphia (formerly Top of the Tower)
Thursday, March 23**

WHAT: On Thursday, March 23, 2017, BalletX, Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet and resident dance company of The Wilma Theater, will hold its annual fundraiser *The Premier Party*. This year BalletX and co-chairs Linda E. Johnson and Rebecca Malcom-Naib honor:

Damian Woetzel → Artistic Director of Vail International Dance Festival, former Principal Dancer with The New York City Ballet, and member of the President's Committee on the Arts & Humanities, appointed by President Barack Obama

Janet and Jim Averill → longtime Ballet advocates and supporters, Board Member at Pennsylvania Ballet and The Salvation Army of Greater Philadelphia (Janet), and Board Member at Free Library Foundation (Emeritus), Rosenbach Museum and Library, Foreign Policy Research Institute, and National Lands Trust (Jim)

Christine Cox, Co-Founder, Artistic & Executive Director of BalletX, says "I am thrilled to be honoring Damian Woetzel, and Janet and Jim Averill at our Premier Party on March 23. Janet and Jim are longtime ballet enthusiasts and have supported so many organizations in Philadelphia. Damian has catapulted ballet into the national dance scene."

The Premier Party kicks off at 6:00pm to 10:30pm, with a 5:30pm-6:30pm VIP reception for event Sponsors, featuring a special toast with the Honorees, Artistic Team, and BalletX dancers. The one-night-only event includes cocktails and seated dinner, a wine tasting by Moore Brothers Wine Company, a Live Auction and Raffle, and features BalletX in world premiere work choreographed by the dancers themselves, as well as a very special guest performance by Memphis Jookin star Lil Buck and cellist Wendy Sutter.

All proceeds from *The Premier Party* go toward supporting BalletX's mission of producing original choreography that expands the vocabulary of classical dance for all audiences.

BalletX gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our Premier Party Presenters and Sponsors.

World Premiere Presenters: Jody and John Arnhold

Premiere Presenter: Alan Palmer

Platinum Sponsors: Neal Krouse and Liz Knudsen

Silver Sponsors: Natalie Brooks and Larry Katz, Jim Goodwill, Linda E. Johnson, Farid Naib and Rebecca Malcolm-Naib

Bronze Sponsors: Tobey and Mark Dichter, Teena Ferroni, Mary Kirson and Bob Bierman, Karen R. Nagel, Ph.D., Jane G. Pepper, Louise and Alan Reed, Vanessa and Brendan Ryan, TAG Communications, and Jeff and Karyn Zinser

Additional sponsors include SKY Philadelphia, Victory Brewing Company, Bluecoat American Dry Gin, Freeman's, and Moore Brothers Wine Company.

Event tickets start at \$350 and are limited. To purchase tickets or sponsorship packages, please visit balletx.org/premierparty or call [215-893-9456 x100](tel:215-893-9456).

VISUALS: Contemporary ballet, live musicians, music, costumes, live auction

WHO: Damian Woetzel, Janet Averill, Jim Averill, Lil Buck, Wendy Sutter, Christine Cox, Matthew Neenan, Tara Keating, BalletX dancers, BalletX Board of Directors

WHEN: Thursday, March 23, 2017
6:00pm-10:30pm
5:30pm-6:00pm (VIP reception)

WHERE: SKY Philadelphia (formerly Top of the Tower)
1717 Arch Street, 50th Floor
Philadelphia, PA