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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BalletX kicks off its 12th season with the return of Nicolo Fonte's 2013 masterpiece 'Beautiful Decay'

WHAT: BalletX, Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet company, opens its 2017-18 Season with Nicolo Fonte's full evening-length work *Beautiful Decay* at The Wilma Theater, Nov. 29-Dec. 10. The ballet features the company performing alongside a senior couple; a joint role shared by very special guest artists Brigitta Herrmann and Manfred Fischbeck, and Brenda Dixon Gottschild and Hellmut Gottschild. Casting will alternate between the two couples and is posted below with performance dates and times.

"*Beautiful Decay* is a ballet that touched all of our hearts when we premiered the work in 2013," says Christine Cox, BalletX Artistic & Executive Director. "Its cross-generational dynamic is very life affirming. I felt it was the perfect time to share the work again and a wonderful way to kick off our 12th season of producing world premiere ballets."

Inspired by a series of Mark Golebiowski's 3-D photographs of decomposing flowers, *Beautiful Decay* takes audiences on an intimate journey exploring the aging process and evolving definitions of beauty. Hailed by *The Dance Journal* as "explosive, athletic dance," and a "sophisticated meditation on the passing of time," the work features original sets designed by Mimi Lien (Tony Award Winner, 2015 MacArthur Fellow), costumes by Martha Chamberlain, lighting by Drew Billiau, and music selections from Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, Max Richter, and Olafur Arnalds. Brooklyn-born Fonte has won critical acclaim for his ballets created on companies around the world, including Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, Finnish National Ballet, and Dutch National Ballet, among many others.

The 12-performance run will also feature several BalletX: X-Process events, inviting audiences deeper into the world of contemporary ballet, including a pre-show *Conversations with the Artists* on opening night; a post-show Q&A on Nov. 30; Young Xers Night on Dec. 7; and a special exhibit of Mark Golebiowski 3-D photographs that inspired the ballet in the Wilma lobby for the duration of the series.

Season subscriptions to BalletX's 2017/18 Season and single tickets to *Fall Series 2017* are available online at <http://www.balletx.org/>, by phone at 215-546-7824, and in person at The Wilma Theater box office at 265 S. Broad Street.

VISUALS: World premiere choreography, dance, stage production, and music

WHO: Christine Cox, Tara Keating, BalletX dancers, Nicolo Fonte, Brigitta Herrmann, Manfred Fischbeck, Brenda Dixon Gottschild, Hellmut Gottschild, Mimi Lien, Martha Chamberlain, Drew Billiau

WHEN and WHERE:

Fall Series 2017 at The Wilma Theater

Wednesday, November 29, 8:00 PM *

- Pre-Show Q&A with Artistic Collaborators, 7:00pm

Thursday, November 30, 8:00 PM +

- Post-Show Q&A with Choreographers

Friday, December 01, 8:00 PM +
Saturday, December 02, 2:00 PM *
Saturday, December 02, 8:00 PM +
Sunday, December 03, 2:00 PM +
Wednesday, December 06, 8:00 PM +
Thursday, December 07, 8:00 PM *
• Young Xers Night, 7:00pm
Friday, December 08, 8:00 PM *
Saturday, December 09, 2:00 PM +
Saturday, December 09, 8:00 PM *
Sunday, December 10, 2:00 PM +

* special guests Brigitta Herrmann and Manfred Fischbeck
+ special guests Brenda Dixon Gottschild and Hellmut Gottschild

ABOUT: BalletX, Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet, unites distinguished choreographers with an outstanding company of world-class dancers to forge new works of athleticism, emotion, and grace. Founded in 2005 by Christine Cox and Matthew Neenan, and now under the direction of Cox as Artistic & Executive Director, BalletX challenges the boundaries of classical ballet by encouraging formal experimentation while preserving rigorous technique. The company is committed to producing new works of the highest quality and integrity that bring the combined visions of choreographers and dancers to life and cultivate in audiences a collective appetite for bold, new dance. For more information, visit www.balletx.org.