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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ALERT

BalletX Announces Nicolo Fonte as Mentor of the 2018-19 Choreographic Fellowship; Applications Accepted Now Through March 30

WHAT: BalletX, Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet, has announced that Nicolo Fonte will serve as mentor of the 2018-19 Choreographic Fellowship. This is an opportunity for an emerging choreographer to work closely with Fonte on a World Premiere ballet, to be performed by BalletX during the company's 2018-19 Season. Fonte will also create a World Premiere on the company during the Fellowship. Applications will be accepted from prospective fellows now through March 30, 2018.

"Nicolo radiates with an intensity that is unique and unparalleled in the dance world. It's inspiring to witness a choreographer with such an unwavering commitment to his choreographic vision. I know he will be a great mentor to our next Choreographic Fellow," says Christine Cox, Artistic & Executive Director of BalletX.

The BalletX Choreographic Fellowship was launched in 2015, with support from the Wyncote Foundation at the recommendation of David Haas, to provide emerging artists with the opportunity to be mentored by an experienced choreographer, and hone their craft and artistic voices in a supportive, professional environment. One of the only programs of its kind in the United States, both fellow and mentor create individual World Premieres on BalletX. Beginning in 2018, the Fellowship will take place at BalletX's Center for World Premiere Choreography – a vibrant, new dance space and community anchor, bridging Washington Avenue to Broad Street's Avenue of the Arts in Philadelphia.

The Fellowship is a competitive application process with up to 50 national and international applicants each year. BalletX artistic leaders, and a distinguished panel of dance experts, select the fellow. Previous fellows are Yin Yue, Tommie-Waheed Evans, and current fellow, Andrew McNicol. Past mentors include Trey McIntyre, Cayetano Soto, and current mentor, Matthew Neenan.

2018-19 mentor Nicolo Fonte is known for his daring and original approach to dance. Since 2000, he has created works for such prestigious companies as Dutch National Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Royal Ballet of Flanders, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Perm Tchaikovsky Ballet, and Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, among many others. He has created two full-length ballets on BalletX, 2013's *Beautiful Decay*, praised by *The Dance Journal* as "an evening of explosive, athletic dance," and 2015's *Beasts*, hailed by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* as "wonderful, wonderful - and yet again - wonderful." Learn more at www.nicolofonte.com.

For more information regarding BalletX's 2018-19 Choreographic Fellowship eligibility and guidelines, visit BalletX.org/fellowship.

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.

BalletX thanks lead season supporters, the William Penn Foundation, Wyncote Foundation, David Haas, Janet & Jim Averill, Al Palmer, Neal Krouse & Liz Knudsen, Barra Foundation, Fierce Advocacy Fund, Michael Soojian & Terry McKissick, Richard & Anna Marie Grossman, Jane Pepper, and Linda & David Glickstein.