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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# MEDIA ALERT

## BalletX Fall Series Presents 3 World Premieres by International Choreographers Marguerite Donlon, Wubkje Kuindersma, and Cayetano Soto

**WHAT:** BalletX, Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet, kicks off its 2018-19 season with *Fall Series 2018* at The Wilma Theater, featuring 12 performances, Nov. 28 - Dec. 9. The company, led by Artistic & Executive Director Christine Cox, will perform three world premieres by international choreographers Marguerite Donlon, Wubkje Kuindersma, and Cayetano Soto. Mark Stanley of the New York City Ballet returns as lighting designer of the *Fall Series*, with costumes by Christine Darch, Mark Eric and Stephen Smith, and original music by Dirk Haubrich.

"I am thrilled by the international spirit of our *Fall Series*. We are welcoming choreographers from three countries," says Cox. "I think it's an especially important time to remember world unity, and I look forward to the diverse choreographic voices and worldviews of our visiting artists this fall."

**Marguerite Donlon's** World Premiere tells the true-life story of her grand-aunt, Katherine Gilnagh, who at the age of sixteen escaped on the Titanic's last lifeboat. Featuring a recording of Gilnagh's firsthand account interwoven into original music by Dirk Haubrich, the piece is part of a larger narrative about emigration and the will to live. Donlon is an Irish-born choreographer based in Berlin. She danced professionally before serving as the ballet director of Donlon Dance Company at Saarländisches Staatstheater from 2001-2013. As a choreographer, she's created on dance companies worldwide, including the Stuttgart Ballet, Berlin Ballet, and Bolshoi Ballet. *The Huffington Post* has praised her "wit, humor, and playfulness" and ability to portray characters that are "living, breathing human being[s]" in her choreography.

**Wubkje Kuindersma's** World Premiere *Yonder* contemplates the hopes and dreams we associate with the horizon, and the bodies of water and land that can thwart or facilitate our

journeys. Hailing from the Netherlands – a country nearly a third below sea level – Kuindersma is uniquely positioned to share her meditation on natural phenomena and destiny. She had a successful career as a dancer with several prestigious companies before pursuing choreography in 2009. Since then Kuindersma has been called a "new name to watch" and recognized for creating dance that expresses "intimacy with a light touch" (*Financial Times*). Her work has appeared on a number of companies, including Dantzaz, Danish Dance Theatre, and Dutch National Ballet. Yonder marks Kuindersma's first World Premiere in the United States.

**Cayetano Soto** won over BalletX audiences in recent years with his ballets *Malasangre* and *Schachmatt*. He returns for his first World Premiere on the company with *Napoleon/Napoleon*; a work that explores imperialism through the lens of satire and his signature style, "bursting with inventive choreography and physical comic magic" (*Huffington Post*). Soto is a Barcelona-based choreographer whose work has been performed on companies around the world, including Royal Ballet of Flanders, Balé da Cidade de São Paulo, and Companhia Nacional de Bailado. His ballet *ADASTRA* was recently featured in a six-episode documentary broadcast on Arte 1 Brazil, and nominated for *Best Dance Performance of the Year* by the São Paulo press. In 2017, he served as mentor to BalletX's Choreographic Fellow Tommie-Waheed Evans.

The 12-performance *Fall Series* also invites audiences deeper into the world of contemporary ballet through *Conversations with the Artists*, an X-Process opening night pre-show panel with the choreographers. On Dec. 6, BalletX will host Young Xers Night, a pre-show cocktail reception and after-party for young dance lovers and professionals.

Single tickets to *Fall Series* and subscriptions to BalletX's 2018-19 Season are available now online, by phone, and in-person at The Wilma Theater box office.

Online: https://www.balletx.org/fall-series-2018/
Phone: 215-546-7824
In-person: 265 S. Broad Street. Phila, PA

**WHERE:** The Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Nov. 28, 8pm

• Pre-Show Q&A with Artistic Collaborators, 7:00PM
Thursday, Nov. 29, 8pm
Friday, Nov. 30, 8pm
Saturday, Dec. 1, 2pm
Saturday, Dec. 1, 8pm
Sunday, Dec. 2, 2pm
Wednesday, Dec. 5, 8pm
Thursday, Dec. 6, 8pm
• Young Xers Night, 7:00PM
Friday, Dec. 7, 8pm
Saturday, Dec. 8, 2pm
Saturday, Dec. 8, 8pm
Sunday, Dec. 9, 2pm

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES:** World premiere choreography, dance, stage production, and music

**INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:** Christine Cox, Tara Keating, Marguerite Donlon, Wubkje Kuindersma, Cayetano Soto, BalletX Dancers

**ABOUT BalletX:** 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. Since the company's founding, BalletX has expanded its repertoire to include 68 world premieres by over 30 internationally renowned artists, including Matthew Neenan, Jodie Gates, Trey McIntyre, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, and Darrell Grand Moultrie. BalletX presents three annual performance series as the resident dance company of The Wilma Theater in Philadelphia and has performed at such prestigious festivals as Vail Dance Festival in Colorado, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Massachusetts, and The Joyce Theater and City Center in New York City. April 2018 marked the opening of BalletX's Center for World Premiere Choreography, the company's new 5,000 square foot studio and administrative home in Philadelphia. Conceived as a place of innovation, creation, inclusion, and education, BalletX's Center for World Premiere Choreography

sets the stage for the company's next decade of dance making. For more information, visit www.balletx.org.

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