



**For Immediate Release
January 2019**

BalletX Annual Gala: The Premier Party

Honoring Leonard C. Haas and Nick Stuccio

Philadelphia – January 2019 – On Saturday, March 23, 2019, BalletX, Philadelphia’s premier contemporary ballet and resident dance company of The Wilma Theater, will hold its annual fundraising gala, The Premier Party at URBN at the Navy Yard. In celebration of Philadelphia’s creative and innovative spirit, BalletX and event co-chairs Mary Lee Bednarek and Anne White honor Leonard C. Haas, Barrymore Award-winning actor and philanthropist, and Nick Stuccio, Producing Director and President of FringeArts.

Christine Cox, Artistic & Executive Director of BalletX, says “Leonard and Nick have shaped the arts in Philadelphia and paved the way for the success of so many artists and performing arts organizations. We celebrate their impact, and toast their trailblazing accomplishments in a night to remember!”

About the Premier Party

The Premier Party kicks off at 6:00pm and runs until 11:00pm, with a VIP Reception for event Sponsors from 5:30pm to 6:00 pm, featuring live music and a special toast with the Artistic Team and BalletX dancers. The main event includes a cocktail hour with live music, hors d’oeuvres, wine tasting by Moore Brothers Wine Company, and bar by 13th Street Cocktails; a seated dinner with live auction and raffle, and exclusive one-night-only performances by the dancers of BalletX, named “among America’s best” by *The New York Times*; the event concludes with dessert and dancing.

All proceeds from The Premier Party directly support BalletX’s Philadelphia home season, and the company’s mission to produce original works that expand the vocabulary of classical dance for all audiences.

Premier Party sponsors

BalletX gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our Premier Party Sponsors, including *Premiere Sponsors*: Frank Olivieri and Nancy Schure; *Platinum Sponsors*: Janet and Jim Averill, David Haas, Al Palmer, and Constance Smukler; *Gold Sponsors*: Tobey and Mark Dichter, Jeanne B. Fisher and Robert F. Lang, Neal Krouse and Liz Knudsen; *Silver Sponsors*: Anonymous, Dr. Peter H. Arger, in honor of Donald Stanley Wilf, and Carole Haas Gravagno; *Bronze Sponsors*: Richard and Anna Marie Grossman, Mary Kirson and Robert Bierman, Rebecca Malcolm-Naib, and Tag Communications; and *Event Sponsors*: Whiz Foundation, Pat's Steaks, Freeman's Auction, Moore Brothers Wine Company, and 13th Street Cocktails. Sponsorships are available now at <https://501auctions.com/premierparty>, or contact James Ihde, Development Associate for Donor Relations, at jihde@balletx.org or 215-225-5389 x106. Single Tickets go on sale February 1, 2019.

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For more information, press only:

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