



For Immediate Release
January 2019

BalletX Presents Spring Series 2019

*Featuring two East Coast Premieres by Lil Buck and Nicolo Fonte, and a World Premiere by 2019
Choreographic Fellow Katarzyna Skarpetowska*

Philadelphia – January 2019 – BalletX, Philadelphia’s premier contemporary ballet, continues its critically-acclaimed 2018-19 season with a 12-performance run of *Spring Series 2019* at The Wilma Theater, March 6-17. The company, led by Artistic & Executive Director Christine Cox, will present the East Coast Premiere of gravity-defying, dance artist Lil Buck’s *Express*, and World Premieres by movement visionary and Philadelphia favorite Nicolo Fonte, and 2019 Choreographic Fellow Katarzyna Skarpetowska. BalletX welcomes back lighting designer Mark Stanley of New York City Ballet, and costume designers Christine Darch, Mark Eric, and Fritz Masten.

“*Spring Series* is an opportunity to see the broad and distinct abilities of our great BalletX dancers. Each of the three choreographers have very different backgrounds and styles, ranging from hip hop to modern dance, and all will take a unique approach to their movement vocabulary on our dancers,” said Christine Cox, Artistic & Executive Director of BalletX.

Lil Buck’s *Express*

BalletX presents the East Coast Premiere of Lil Buck’s *Express*, originally co-commissioned by Damian Woetzel for the 2018 Vail Dance Festival. Combining ballet and a style of street dancing performed in sneakers called Memphis jookin, Lil Buck’s *Express* features music by Jon Batiste of *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. Lil Buck has collaborated with everyone from Madonna to Cirque du Soleil, Mikhail Baryshnikov, and Yo Yo Ma, including popular commercials for Apple’s iPhone and Lexus cars. He and Miami popping dancer Jon Boogz founded *Movement Art Is* to promote the positive social impact of dance, and recently

toured their first evening-length show, *Love Heals All Wounds* – a work *The New York Times* praised for its “cinematic sense of tension, urgency, vitality and grace.”

Nicolo Fonte’s 3rd BalletX Collaboration

Nicolo Fonte returns for his third BalletX collaboration, following the success of *Beautiful Decay* (2013) and *Beasts* (2015), a work “so good, I wanted to see it again while it was still happening,” wrote Nancy G. Heller for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Fonte’s new ballet *Steep Drop, Euphoric* refers to a scenic element, which he calls purely decorative until it takes on more of a narrative, becoming another cast member in the third movement. The work features music by Ezio Bosso and Ólafur Arnalds. Fonte has created works on such prestigious companies as Dutch National Ballet, Royal Ballet of Flanders, and Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, and currently serves as Resident Choreographer with Ballet West and Oregon Ballet Theatre. He will mentor BalletX’s 2019 Choreographic Fellow, Katarzyna Skarpetowska, also on the Spring Series program.

Meet Katarzyna Skarpetowska

Katarzyna Skarpetowska is BalletX’s 2019 Choreographic Fellow, selected by a panel of dance experts, including Nicolo Fonte. “I loved the overall architecture and the breadth of movement ideas in her work. It seemed fresh without any over the top gimmickry,” said Fonte. Skarpetowska’s World Premiere, *Off the Canvas*, is inspired by Cy Twombly’s *Bacchus* series of paintings, and features music by Vivaldi and Adrian Klumpes. Her choreography has appeared on several companies, including Parsons Dance and Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, where she was also a former dancer. Skarpetowska was named *Dance Magazine’s* “25 to Watch” in 2016 and received a Bessie Award nomination in the emerging choreographer category in 2017. Her choreography has been described as “a breath of fresh air” (*The Dance Enthusiast*).

The BalletX Choreographic Fellowship is generously supported by the Wyncote Foundation. In its fourth year, the Fellowship is an opportunity for emerging artists to expand their experience and further develop their unique voices under the mentorship and guidance of established choreographers.

Performance Dates & Times

Wednesday, March 06, 8:00pm

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

Thursday, March 07, 8:00 PM

Friday, March 08, 8:00 PM

Saturday, March 09, 2:00 PM

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Sunday, March 10, 2:00 PM

Wednesday, March 13, 8:00 PM

Thursday, March 14, 8:00 PM

Young Xers Night, 7:00pm

Friday, March 15, 8:00 PM

Saturday, March 16, 2:00 PM

Saturday, March 16, 8:00 PM

Sunday, March 17, 2:00 PM

Tickets & Subscriptions

Online: BalletX.org/spring2019

Phone: 215-546-7824

In-person: 265 S. Broad Street. Phila, PA

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