



For Immediate Release

**BalletX World Premiere Event featuring
Three Short Films by Robbie Fairchild, Amy Hall Garner, Mariana Oliveira**

Philadelphia, PA, November, 2020 – BalletX dives deep into its 15th Anniversary Season celebration with the world premiere of three short films by choreographers Robbie Fairchild, Amy Hall Garner, and Mariana Oliveira. The short films will be screened for the first time in a Virtual Premiere Event, hosted by BalletX on Zoom, on **November 18, 2020 at 7:00pm EST**. In the event, BalletX dancers will make a special appearance, and the choreographers will participate in a conversation about their work, moderated by Artistic & Executive Director Christine Cox. Following the event, subscribers will have exclusive 24/7 access to the short films on BalletX Beyond, the company's new subscription-based streaming platform, named "ahead of the game" by *The New York Times*.

"We have been on an incredible journey creating new short films throughout our great city and region. Watching the dancers dive into the ferns at Longwood Gardens, then spiraling up a staircase at Stoneleigh, and traveling as a full company to film in front of beautiful murals highlighting Philadelphia's Mural Arts program, makes me so proud," says Christine Cox, BalletX Artistic and Executive Director.

Choreographers Robbie Fairchild, Amy Hall Garner, and Mariana Oliveira's work was filmed by filmmakers Giacomo Belletti and Elliot deBruyn, with Nate Brown. Robbie Fairchild's world premiere features costume styling by Mark Eric, with gowns and cocktail dresses by Marchesa. The films were shot at a number of sites throughout Greater Philadelphia, including Longwood Gardens, Natural Lands' Stoneleigh, and Mural Arts' *Soul of the Black Bottom* by artist eL Seed at the Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, *Start From Here* by artist Isaac Tin Wei Lin at 1321 Race Street, and *untitled* by Nate Harris at Admiral Peary Way at the Navy Yard.

About BalletX Beyond:

BalletX launched BalletX Beyond, the company's first subscription-based streaming platform, in September 2020 to help keep the arts alive during the ongoing theater closings due to Covid-19, and to

ensure BalletX can continue to support its exceptional company of dancers and collaborating choreographers, filmmakers, and designers.

BalletX Beyond is available now in two plans at www.BalletX.org/Beyond:

Basic (\$15/month), featuring access to three Virtual World Premiere events, 15 digital features and short dance films, behind-the-scenes documentaries, artist Q&As and interviews, bonus launch videos, and surprise programming and events throughout the season.

Plus (\$30/month), featuring all of the access available in the Basic plan, plus a rotating schedule of over 40 classic ballets from the BalletX archive and ticket discounts to any mainstage performances scheduled in spring or summer 2021.

For questions regarding BalletX Beyond and subscriptions, call 215-225-5389 or email boxoffice@balletx.org.

About BalletX

BalletX, Philadelphia's Premier Contemporary Ballet Company, celebrating its 15th Anniversary Season in 2020-21, commissions choreographers from around the world to create new ballets that are "fresh, inclusive, and connect to what people want" (*Philadelphia Citizen*). Led by Artistic & Executive Director Christine Cox, BalletX has been recognized by *The New Yorker* as a "place of choreographic innovation" for producing 87 world premiere ballets by over 45 choreographers in its 15-year history. In response to theater closings surrounding the Covid-19 global pandemic, BalletX launched BalletX Beyond, a virtual subscription series platform, in September 2020. In addition to virtual works, main-stage performances and international touring, the company offers free community pop ups, dance classes, artist Q&As, open rehearsals, and in-school dance education, designed to bring its home city of Philadelphia and the nation closer to dance. Among its many accolades and honors, BalletX was recently featured on the cover of *Dance Magazine's* October 2019 issue. To learn more about BalletX's programming and dancers, named "among America's best" by *The New York Times*, please visit BalletX.org and follow the company on social media.

About the choreographers:

Robbie Fairchild made his Tony nominated Broadway debut in 2015 as Jerry Mulligan in the Tony Award-winning musical *An American in Paris*, which he reprised in London's West End in 2017. He was awarded the Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Theater World, National Dance and Astaire Award for this performance and was nominated for the Evening Standard and Drama League Awards. From 2009 to 2017, Fairchild performed as a Principal Dancer with the New York City Ballet. His other theater credits include Monster in Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein* (Signature Theater, Chita Rivera Award), Harry Beaton in *Brigadoon* (New York City Center), Will Parker in *Oklahoma!* (Royal Albert Hall, London), Mike Costa in *A Chorus Line* (Hollywood Bowl), and Bill Calhoun in *Kiss Me Kate* (Roundabout Theater Company's 2017 Gala). Television: *Soundtrack* (Netflix), *Mixtape* (FOX Pilot), *Julie's Greenroom* (Netflix), *Oklahoma!* (BBC Proms), Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* and Carousel Boy in NY Philharmonic's *Carousel* (PBS's Live from Lincoln Center), *Dancing With The Stars*, *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert*, *Live with Kelly and Michael*, CBS Sunday Morning, and 60 Minutes. Film: Tom Hooper's *Cats*, *An American in Paris Live* (West End Production), *The Chaperone* and NY Export: Opus Jazz. Represented by CAA.

Amy Hall Garner is a native of Huntsville, Alabama, and a graduate of The Juilliard School. Her work has been praised internationally and commissioned by Ailey II, ABT Studio Company, Collage Dance Collective, The Juilliard School, The Ailey School, Barnard College, The University of the Arts, Columbia Ballet Collaborative, Point Park University, and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. She personally coached Grammy Award winner Beyoncé, providing additional choreography for The Mrs. Carter Show World Tour. Theatrical choreography credits include: *The Color Purple* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater) and *Invisible Thread*, associate choreographer (Second Stage Theater). In 2018, she was selected to participate in Alvin Ailey's New Directions Choreography Lab supported by the Ford Foundation. Garner was one of the first recipients of the Joffrey Ballet's Choreography of Color Award (now titled Winning Works). Amy Hall Garner is an adjunct professor at New York University's New Studio on Broadway at Tisch School of the Arts.

Originally from Brazil, **Mariana Oliveira** studied at the Royal Academy of Dance in London, and was a trainee dancer at the National Dance Company of Wales. At the age of 19 she was invited to join the Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami. In 2009, she founded her own dance company The Union Project Dance Company. She has been commissioned to create new works for the New York City Ballet Choreographic Institute, Nashville Ballet, Richmond Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Carolina Ballet, Dayton Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, Joffrey Ballet Academy, Madison Ballet, National Choreographers Initiative, Ballet Arkansas, American Midwest Ballet, Chicago Repertory Ballet, among others. Mariana is a recipient of the NYU

Center for Ballet and the Arts Fellowship, as well the Kansas City University Choreographic Fellowship. Her works have also been presented at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and for 2 consecutive years she has been a finalist of the McCallum Theatre Choreography Festival.

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