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BalletX Expands Company, Announces New Dance Fellow and Retirement of Chloe Perkes

The new dancers are already in rehearsal as the Company prepares to embark on a busy touring season before returning to Philadelphia for performances in September

PHILADELPHIA (July 26, 2021) – BalletX announces exciting changes to its company of dancers, welcoming three full-time members -- including an alumnus of *Dance Magazine's* Top 25 -- a new Dance Fellow and the retirement of dancer Chloe Perkes. The changes come as the Company, one of the nation's leading contemporary ballets, prepares for a busy touring season and the early fall return of Matthew Neenan's *Sunset, 0639 Hours*, to-date one of its most critically-acclaimed works.

The personnel changes include:

- Dancers **Jonah Delgado**, **Shawn Cusseaux** and **Pete Leo Walker** join as full-time Company members. Delgado and Walker come to BalletX from the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, which recently dissolved its well-regarded touring company as a result of the pandemic
- **Alexandra Policaro** is the new Independence Foundation Dance Fellow
- **Stanley Glover Jr.** is leaving the Company to pursue commercial dance in Chicago
- **Chloe Perkes** is retiring from dancing; a tribute celebrating her decade with BalletX is planned this September

"I'm really proud of what BalletX was able to accomplish this past year and we have experienced a tremendous amount of change both on and off the stage. Saying goodbye to extraordinary dancers is never easy but I am thrilled to welcome new ones as we expand and grow the company said **Christine Cox**, BalletX's Artistic & Executive Director. "The addition of new dancers is a part of our forward momentum – we're building on the strong foundations and connections that dancers like Chloe and Stanley helped us build, while adding in new and different perspectives and talent. Change is constant and it's exciting; Jonah, Pete, Shawn and Alex open up entirely new avenues for us in terms of upcoming work."

Delgado has already filled roles in the recent Summer Series at the Mann, so audiences will recognize him as he transitions into a Company regular. He grew up in Illinois, where his formative dance training began with The Academy of Dance Arts. During his time at Marymount Manhattan College, he also guested with Visceral Dance Chicago, Martha Graham Dance Company and Illinois Ballet Theatre.

Cusseaux moves up from fellowship to full-time dancer. He hails from Tampa Bay, FL, where he attended Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School. He continued his studies in Pittsburgh at the Conservatory of Performing Arts at Point Park University. During this time he was given opportunities to perform works by Garfield Lemonious, Jae Man Joo, Kiesha Lalama, Jennifer Archibald, Jose Limon, Jason Mcdole, Amy Hall Garner, Robert Priorie, Edwaard Liang and Camille A. Brown.

Walker is currently rehearsing a world premiere under the direction of choreographer Jamar Roberts, which will be staged Aug. 9 during the Vail Dance Festival, where BalletX will be the Company-In-Residence. He began his

training at The Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts before joining the Charlotte Ballet in 2010 under the direction of Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux and Patricia McBride. In 2011 he received the prestigious Princess Grace Dance Fellowship Award and in 2012 was promoted to Principal Artist with the Charlotte Ballet. The following year he was listed in *Dance Magazine's* "Top 25 to Watch" and in December 2014, performed *Who Cares* at the Kennedy Center Honors Awards, as tribute to Patricia McBride. Following his tenure with the Charlotte Ballet, he joined Aspen Santa Fe Ballet before landing at BalletX.

Policaro moved to New York City at the age of 16 to train at The Ailey School. She was a 2017 National Young Arts Foundation winner in modern dance and received the Excellence in Dance award at PPAS. In addition to performing on stage, she has been a featured dancer in music videos by artists such as Brandy and Paris Jackson.

Glover is leaving BalletX and heading back to his hometown of Chicago to film a TV series for Fox. He is interested in pursuing commercial dance and was recently on Season 2 of HBO's *Legendary* (credited as Stanley Tisci of the House of Tisci), which was nominated for two Emmy Awards. He was also featured on Season 11 of the hit series *So You Think You Can Dance*. BalletX nominated him in 2019 for a Princess Grace Award for dance, which he received.

Perkes has retired from dancing after 10 years of incredible work with BalletX. She recently welcomed her first child into the world and will be moving back to California with her husband and son to be near family. BalletX will honor her impact and decade of artistry with a special preshow in-person discussion this September when the Company presents its Fall Series.

BalletX will return as the company-in-residence to the upcoming Vail Dance Festival, Aug. 1-9, and makes its debut at Ballet Sun Valley Aug. 22-23, having been selected to anchor the Colorado festival's inaugural second set of dates as it expands programming this year. BalletX will also appear at the Fall for Dance Festival Oct. 21-22 at New York City Center; other stops in October include Pepperdine University (Malibu, CA.), Segerstrom Center for the Arts (Costa Mesa, CA) and the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts (Brookville, NY).

ABOUT BALLETX

[BalletX](http://www.BalletX.org), celebrating its 15th Anniversary Season as Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet, 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 nearly 100 world premiere ballets by more than 50 choreographers in its 15-year history. 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 audiences and the nation closer to dance. Among its many accolades and honors, BalletX was featured on the cover of *Dance Magazine's* October 2019 issue under the headline "BalletX is Taking All the Right Risks." To learn more about BalletX's programming and dancers, please visit www.BalletX.org and follow the company on social media.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Headshots, as well as select video and photography, are available for publication at BalletX.org/pressroom
2. BalletX is [@BalletX.Official](https://www.instagram.com/BalletX.Official) on Instagram. Helpful hashtags are #BalletX #BalletX15 #ContemporaryBallet #ModernBallet #ModernDance #WorldPremiere #WhyILovePhilly #VisitPhilly