



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:

Matthew Vlahos, 717-372-2497 or matthew@vlahospr.com

Tickets Now On Sale for BalletX's "Sunset, o639 Hours" Sept. 9-12

The full-length ballet choreographed by Matthew Neenan marks BalletX's return to Philly's Avenue of the Arts with six performances scheduled for The Suzanne Roberts Theatre

The theater will be limited to 70 percent capacity and patrons must be either fully-vaccinated or show proof of a negative COVID test before attending. Masks will be required for everyone at all times

PHILADELPHIA (Aug. 12, 2021) – Tickets for BalletX's "Sunset, o639 Hours" are now on sale. Choreographed by Matthew Neenan, the critically-acclaimed full-length ballet interprets the dramatic true story of aviation pioneer Captain Edwin Musick and his fateful 1938 airmail flight across the Pacific. Six performances are scheduled as part of BalletX's Fall Series Sept. 9-12 at The Suzanne Roberts Theatre, where capacity will be limited to 70 percent and patrons will need to show proof of vaccination or negative COVID test results. The safety restrictions are in keeping with current local and state guidelines and will continue to evolve.

"We are thrilled to be bringing Sunset back to our audience in Philadelphia after a successful tour to the Vail Dance Festival. Audiences jumped to their feet at the Ford Amphitheater and this work still resonates with patrons, featuring six new dancers and two new band members," said Christine Cox, Executive and Artistic Director of BalletX.

A story of love, loss and adventure, "Sunset" combines contemporary ballet with original music, played live onstage by a cabaret band on original instruments invented by Neil Feather. It was choreographed by Matthew Neenan and composed by Rosie Langabeer, Andrew Mars, Josh Machiz and Isaac Stanford, immersing audiences in the world of the South Pacific by weaving together original 1930s-inspired songs, field tapes and archival recordings. The work features set design by Maiko Matsushima, lighting design by Drew Billiau, costume design by Christine Darch and sound design by Nick Kourtides.

"Sunset" had its world premiere with BalletX in 2014, followed by additional performances in 2016. Critics raved about it, with *The Philadelphia Inquirer* calling it "one of the finest works created in the company's first decade." The Company brought back the full-length work – 80 minutes with one intermission – this year, taking it on tour to the Vail Dance Festival, where they were the company-in-residence, and Ballet Sun Valley, coming up Aug. 22-23. The piece was selected to anchor Ballet Sun Valley's inaugural second week of programming.

BalletX and the venue will continue to adhere to current COVID protocols to ensure the safety of its guests, performers and crew. Policies may evolve based on local, state and federal guidelines, but they currently include proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test result required for entry, in addition to ticket; everyone must wear a mask covering their mouth and nose at all times while inside; no food or drink will be served during intermission; and house capacity will be limited to 70 percent. Timed entry is also being considered to help reduce crowding in common areas.

Tickets are \$60-\$70 and can be purchased online at BalletX.org or by calling the BX Box Office at 215-225-5389 x250. All seating will be General Admission. Performances are scheduled for: Thursday, Sept. 9 at 8p; Friday, Sept. 10 at 8p; Saturday, Sept. 11 at 2p and 8p; and Sunday, Sept. 12 at 2p and 7p.

The Suzanne Roberts Theatre is located at 480 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia PA 19146. It is one of more than a dozen cultural and performing arts venues that together make up the Avenue of the Arts along South Broad Street in Center City.

ABOUT BALLETX

[BalletX](http://www.BalletX.org), 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 and films 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.

###

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Photos and video are available for publication at BalletX.org/pressroom
2. BalletX is [@BalletX.Official](https://www.instagram.com/BalletX.Official) on Instagram

SHOWTIMES:

1. Thursday, Sept. 9 at 8p
2. Friday, Sept. 10 at 8p
3. Saturday, Sept. 11 at 2p
4. Saturday, Sept. 11 at 8p
5. Sunday, Sept. 12 at 2p
6. Sunday, Sept. 12 at 7p

TICKETS: \$60-\$70 for general admission available through the BX Office, 215-225-5389 x250 or balletx.org

SPECIAL EVENTS:

1. CONVERSATION WITH THE ARTISTS
Thursday, Sep. 9 at 7p
*Join Artistic & Executive Director Christine Cox, choreographer Matthew Neenan, and special guests for an intimate conversation on the creation and evolution of *Sunset, o639 Hours**
2. A CELEBRATION OF CHLOE PERKES
Saturday, Sep. 11 at 7p
Join the Artistic Team for a special pre-show conversation with Chloe Perkes, treasured company member who retired in 2021, as she looks back on her decade-long career with BalletX
3. DANCE SCHOOL NIGHT
Sunday, Sep. 12 at 6p
BalletX invites young dancers and their families to join a pre-show talk with Associate Artistic Director Tara Keating about her career as a professional dancer with Pennsylvania Ballet

CREDITS:

Sunset, o639 Hours
BalletX World Premiere, 2014 at The Wilma Theater

Choreographer: Matthew Neenan
Composer, Lyrics, and Co-Creator: Rosie Langabeer
Composition and Lyrics: Andrew Mars
Composition and Musician: Isaac Stanford
Composition and Musician: Joshua Machiz
Musician: Alexandra Day

Musician: Tara Middleton
Set Designer: Maiko Matsushima
Lighting Designer: Drew Billiau
Sound Designer: Nick Kourtides
Costume Designer: Christine Darch
Instrument Inventor: Neil Feather

The Company

Shawn Cusseaux, Jonah Delgado, Francesca Forcella, Savannah Green, Zachary Kapeluck, Blake Krapels, Skyler Lubin, Ashley Simpson, Richard Villaverde, Pete Leo Walker, Andrea Yorita

The Musicians

Alexandra Day, Joshua Machiz, Tara Middleton, Isaac Stanford

Archival recordings provided by Sound Archives NGA Taonga Korero

REVIEW/QUOTES:

- "Thanks to (Neenan and Langabeer) and the dancers, *Sunset, 0639 Hours* becomes beautifully elegiac, taking us into the hearts of people who lived decades ago and are now largely forgotten." [The New York Times, 2014](#)
- "The two-act ballet is really a series of fantastical sketches that are like a dream you cannot unpack later, but makes perfect, poetic sense while asleep." [The Boston Globe, 2016](#)
- "...the piece is as much a testament to human connection and vulnerability as a eulogy to Musick's bravery." [Huffington Post, 2017](#)