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BalletX Premieres 5 Works, April 19-21 at Historic Glen Foerd Mansion

The performances are also the debut of the company's new Choreographic Incubator, designed to encourage experimentation by emerging artists

PHILADELPHIA (March 24, 2022) – BalletX, Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet, launches into the 2022 Season with four one-of-a-kind performances April 19-21 at Glen Foerd Mansion, a gorgeous hidden gem and historic site on the Delaware River located just minutes north of Center City Philadelphia. The program includes a world premiere by 2022 Choreographic Fellow **Tsai Hsi Hung**, a new work by BalletX dancer **Zachary Kapeluck**, and a first-look at work by three artists in BalletX's new Choreographic Incubator program – **Tommie-Waheed Evans**, **Caili Quan** and **Nicole Caruana**. Their works are inspired by identity, spirituality and the legendary Philadelphia activist and opera singer **Marian Anderson**.

"I am so excited to be back at Glen Foerd after performing at this unique and intimate venue last spring. Glen Foerd's historic grounds open so many possibilities for us to engage with audiences in new ways, from tours of the site, to pre-show live music, to watching new works against the gorgeous backdrop of the Delaware River. Its innovative qualities make it the perfect place to debut the Choreographic Incubator, a program designed on experimentation and deepening partnerships within our community" said **Christine Cox**, Artistic & Executive Director of BalletX.

The program features a world premiere by **Tsai Hsi Hung**, Taiwanese choreographer and BalletX's 2022 Choreographic Fellow, who returns after the success of her BalletX Beyond short film *Two X Two*. Her piece explores the different faces of unconventional beauty.

The program also features a new work by BalletX dancer **Zachary Kapeluck**, as well as the launch of BalletX's new Choreographic Incubator, an initiative designed by Cox to offer up to four emerging choreographers each season with a platform for freedom and experimentation as they expand their unique artistic voices.

Audiences will experience work from BalletX's 2022 Incubator cohort:

- **Tommie-Waheed Evans**, a 2021 Guggenheim Fellow and former PHILADANCO dancer praised for "full throttle performance" (*The Dance Journal*). His new work is inspired by spiritual music's impact on his life and artistry and features a live vocal performance by frequent BalletX collaborator and Sun Ra Arkestra lead singer, **Tara Middleton**.
- **Caili Quan**, a former BalletX dancer and longtime audience favorite whose new work about identity is created in partnership with North Philadelphia's **Esperanza**. Her choreography has been hailed as "exciting and unexpected" (*The Statesman*).
- **Nicole Caruana**, known for her "fun, joyous and quirky choreography" (*Mooney on Theatre*), creates a ballet set to the transcendent voice of legendary opera singer and activist **Marian Anderson**. Anderson, born in Philadelphia in 1897, was a renowned contralto whose 40-year career took her around the world, performing everything from opera to spirituals with leading

orchestras in major concert and recital venues. She was an important figure in the struggle for Black artists to overcome racial prejudice, particularly during the era of segregation.

The four performances are: Tuesday, April 19 at 7:30p; Wednesday, April 20 at 2p and 7:30p; and Thursday, April 21 at 7:30p. Seating is limited. Audiences are invited to come early for festive live music by Bismuth String Quartet and complimentary tours of Glen Foerd Mansion prior to each performance.

General admission tickets are \$65-\$70 (\$30 for students with a valid ID) and are available at [BalletX.org](https://www.balletx.org) or through the BalletX Box Office, 215-225-5389 x250. All guests 5 years of age or older will be required to show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination prior to entry. Masks are not required.

Glen Foerd Mansion is located at 5001 Grant Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19114.

About BalletX

Based in Philadelphia, [BalletX](https://www.balletx.org) is one of the nation's premier contemporary ballet companies, known for commissioning 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 60 choreographers in its 16-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 audiences closer to dance. To learn more about BalletX's programming and dancers, visit [BalletX.org](https://www.balletx.org) and follow the company on social media.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Photos, bios and video are available for publication at [BalletX.org/pressroom](https://www.balletx.org/pressroom)