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MEDIA CONTACT:

Stephanie Fanelli

sfanelli@signature57.com

484-213-5968

BalletX Returns to the Mann for Spring Series 2022 with Two Performances on May 18-19

BalletX will feature two world premieres and a company favorite during the two-night series; Guests will enjoy performances along with pre-event picnics, live music, dance performances, and family-friendly activities

PHILADELPHIA (April 28, 2022) – BalletX, Philadelphia’s premier contemporary ballet, returns to TD Pavilion at the Mann on May 18-19, 2022 to perform two shows as a part of the venue’s 2022 Spring Series. The family-friendly events will premiere new works by award-winning choreographers Jennifer Archibald and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa alongside the return of a company favorite, Matthew Neenan’s *The Last Glass*. Tickets start at just \$15 and guests are encouraged to bring picnics and come early for pre-show activities across the Mann’s campus, including live music and dance performances.

“BalletX is thrilled to officially launch our partnership as a Resident Company of the Mann with Spring Series 2022. To celebrate, we’re going to make these performances absolutely unforgettable,” says Christine Cox, Artistic & Executive Director of BalletX. “We are excited to safely gather on the Mann’s campus for pre-show live music and special performances by students in both BalletX and the Mann’s outreach programs, and to engage our community with world premiere ballets that create powerful connections, inspiration, and joy through dance.”

About the Choreographers

Jennifer Archibald is the acclaimed Founder and Artistic Director of Arch Dance Company in New York, Lecturer in Acting at Yale School of Drama, and Resident Choreographer of Cincinnati Ballet, whose work has been hailed as “mesmerizing” (Arts Air) and “spellbinding” (Revue). Archibald makes her BalletX debut with a premiere set to the music of South African DJ, Black Coffee, and featuring costumes by Olivia Mason and lighting design by Brandon Stirling Baker.

Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, who received her first commission in the United States from BalletX in 2008, is an award-winning Colombian-Belgian choreographer. She has created works for over 70 international dance companies, including English National Ballet, and New York City Ballet, and her 2019 BalletX premiere, *The Little Prince*, was named “one of the year’s must-see shows” by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Her new work, tentatively titled *Renaissance*, is a kaleidoscopic piece about Vaudevillian characters, set to music by Manuel Wandji and featuring costumes by Mark Eric and lighting design by Brandon Stirling Baker.

Matthew Neenan’s *The Last Glass*, a signature BalletX work that originally debuted in 2010, is set to the music of indie rock band Beirut and features costumes by Martha Chamberlain and lighting design by Drew Billiau. *The Last Glass* is a ballet that slowly awakens like a city, part mysterious pageant and part raucous celebration. Neenan co-founded BalletX in 2005 and has choreographed on major companies including Philadelphia Ballet, New York City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and Parsons Dance, among many others.

Performance & Ticket Information

Performances are on May 18 at 8:00pm and May 19 at 8:00pm, with doors opening at 6:30pm on both evenings. Picnics are welcome, and parking is free in the Mann’s parking lot. Tickets range from \$15-\$50 and are available at BalletX.org or through the BalletX Box Office, 215-225-5389 x250.

BalletX and the Mann will adhere to current COVID protocols to ensure the safety of its guests, performers and crew. Details are subject to change.

About the Preshow Performances

Guests are encouraged to bring picnics and come early for pre-show performances across the Mann’s campus, starting at 6:30pm. Live musicians include Heath Allen, Joshua Machiz, Joshua Shaffer, Faith Williams, and Mad Beatz Philly, and both evenings will feature a performance by the BalletX Dance Fellows. On May 18, students from BalletX’s in-school education program, Dance eXchange, will perform on the Mann’s concourse, and May 19 will feature a performance by students from the Mann’s Motion & Music Academy.

About BalletX

Based in Philadelphia, BalletX 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 and follow the company on social media.

About the Mann Center for the Performing Arts

As one of the foremost outdoor music centers in the country, the Mann Center for the Performing Arts, a leading non-profit organization, has a historical legacy of artistic excellence as a world-class entertainment destination presenting premier artists, now in association with Live Nation Entertainment. Each summer season, renowned symphony orchestras, iconic rock stars, and the latest touring artists in indie rock, hip hop, R&B, and pop take the stage here. The Mann is the summer home of The Philadelphia Orchestra and has presented critically acclaimed performers in every decade since the 1930s. Located in the heart of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park, the Mann hosts more than 200,000 visitors annually. Signature concert experiences are surrounded by Philadelphia's stunning skyline and include seats beneath the Mann's acoustically acclaimed TD Pavilion; picnics, blankets, and music under the stars on its Great Lawn or at the top of the hill at the Skyline Stage; and dining in Crescendo, the venue's spectacular tented restaurant. In addition, the Mann's Education & Community Engagement Program reaches tens of thousands of young people annually through free programming and educational initiatives as well as its virtual Mann Music Room. For more information, visit MannCenter.org.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Photos, bios and video are available for publication at BalletX.org/pressroom