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BalletX is Back at The Wilma Theater for Its Highly Anticipated 2023 Winter Series, March 1 - March 5

*Philadelphia's premier contemporary Ballet company features ballets by leading
Choreographers Amy Seiwert and Jorma Elo, with a special performance created by 2023
Choreographic Fellow Gary W. Jeter II*

PHILADELPHIA (February 21, 2023) – [BalletX](#), Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet, heads back to The Wilma Theater for its highly anticipated Winter Series. The Winter Series will be held from March 1 - 5 with performances including the world premiere of *A Long Night* by beloved Choreographer Amy Seiwert. Seiwert's work will be accompanied by Jorma Elo's *Scenes View 2*, which first premiered on the company in 2006. Additionally, BalletX is also proud to feature a world premiere of *Seeds* by 2023 Choreographic Fellow, Gary W. Jeter II.

"This has been a special series to watch come together," says **Christine Cox, Artistic & Executive Director of BalletX**. "We are featuring work from talented industry choreographers and one of our very own fellows. I fully anticipate these performances to invoke a wide range of emotions and excitement from our audience, especially after witnessing the collaboration between Gary and his mentor, renowned choreographer Darrell Grand Moultrie, over the last few months."

During the Winter Series, Balletx will present the beloved Amy Seiwert's world premiere. Seiwert lends BalletX her nineteen-years of experience dancing with the Smuin, LA Chamber and Sacramento Ballets. She has worked with dancers from New York City Ballet and was given the honor of Artist in Residence at ODC Theater from 2013-2015. She was most recently Artistic Director with the Sacramento Ballet, choreographing company favorite "It's Not a Cry" set to Jeff Buckley's version of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah."

"I greatly appreciated Christine's encouragement to step outside of my comfort zone and have a creative play with the BalletX artists," says **Amy Siewert, Choreographer**. "*A Long Night*, loosely inspired by the Lovers and Puck in Shakespeare's *Midsummer's*, looks at the classic story

through a contemporary lens, exploring songs with "Dream" in the titles. Patsy Cline, Tom Waits, and Doris Day are all represented. Most of my works are abstract and movement based, so I greatly appreciate the creative team of artists and collaborators that encouraged me to explore new territory with *A Long Night*."

Seiwert's work will be accompanied by Jorma Elo's *Scenes View 2*, which first premiered on the company in 2006. Elo, the resident choreographer of Boston Ballet, remains one of the most sought-after choreographers in the world, creating works for companies including American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Netherlands Dance Theater, Royal Danish Ballet, and many more.

"It's been such a pleasure revisiting the first work that Jorma created for the company. As a 2006 world premiere, this will be the first time the current dancers will perform *Scenes View 2*," says **Tara Keating, Associate Artistic Director at BalletX**. "It's a joy to watch them interpret his work, and we're looking forward to having Jorma in the studio with us to put the finishing touches on it."

BalletX is also proud to feature the work of 2023 Choreographic Fellow Gary W. Jeter II during the Winter Series at the Wilma. At the performance, Jeter will present his work tackling the themes of simplicity and beauty in everything. Gary was previously a dancer with BalletX for several years before taking on the role of Choreographic Fellow.

"When I think about seeds, I think of the delicate process of growth and maturing. The process of commitment and responsibilities to that seed," says **Gary W. Jeter II, BalletX Choreographic Fellow**. "From the beginning of the planting until the reveal of the blossom and beyond. What are my responsibilities to the different stages of that seed's experience of life, especially when goals, desires, and expectations come into play."

Each performance for the Winter Series 2023 will be approximately 100 minutes, including one intermission. For tickets, student discounts, and more information, contact the BalletX Box Office at 215-225-5389 x250 or boxoffice@balletx.org. More information is also available at BalletX.org. Per The Wilma Theater's policy, patrons will be required to wear masks while inside the theater.

BalletX and The Wilma Theater will adhere to current COVID-19 protocols to ensure the safety of its guests, performers and crew. Refer to BalletX.org/covid-safety for up-to-date information.

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 70 choreographers in its 17-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 Wilma Theater

The Wilma creates living, adventurous theater. The Wilma engages artists and audiences in imaginative reflection on the complexities of contemporary life. It presents bold, original, rigorously crafted productions that represent a range of voices, viewpoints, and styles. Established in 1973 as The Wilma Project, the Wilma challenged the Philadelphia cultural community to create theatrical productions of original material and to develop local artists. From 1973 through 1979, the Wilma dazzled the Philadelphia public by presenting work with renowned avant garde theater artists, including the Bread & Puppet Theatre, Mabou Mines, Charles Ludlam's Ridiculous Theatrical Company, The Wooster Group, Ping Chong & the Fiji Company and Spalding Gray.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

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