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BalletX Heads Outdoors for Spring Series & Annual Fundraising Gala - The Premier Party

A week at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts with fans, friends and supporters celebrating Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet company

PHILADELPHIA (May 10, 2023) – [BalletX](#), one of the nation's premier contemporary ballet companies based in Philadelphia, headed to the outdoor stage for two happenings including its annual fundraising gala The Premier Party on May 1 and Spring Series held May 4 & 5. The events gathered friends, supporters, fellow dance companies, and the community in celebration of contemporary ballet on the beautiful outdoor stages at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

During The Premier Party on May 1, BalletX company dancers performed self choreographed, special never before seen world premieres for guests, held a live auction and raffle, showcased a performance by Bismuth Quartet and more. A special moment of the evening, BalletX honored two long-time supporters Neal W. Krouse and Elizabeth Warshawer. Retired President of United Elevator Company, Krouse is a BalletX Board Member whose philanthropy and leadership has deeply impacted the arts & culture community in Philadelphia. Principal of EBW Consulting, LLC, Warshawer's executive leadership has supported nonprofit, corporate and academic organizations throughout the country.

"I have supported BalletX for over ten years because of my love for classical ballet and contemporary dance," says **Neal W. Krouse, honoree at The Premier Party**. "BalletX dancers, management, and staff deserve my support because they bring joy and excellence to the community and beyond."

Throughout the night, BalletX guests enjoyed cocktails, a seated dinner, several performances and dancing. The night was kicked off by a special performance from BalletX's youth outreach program, Dance eXchange, where children from local Philadelphia elementary schools got the chance to perform a pre-rehearsed dance in front of a live audience composed of BalletX's friends and supporters.

"At this time in my life, I feel so fortunate to be able to work with cultural institutions like BalletX in the Philadelphia region and beyond," says **Elizabeth Warshawer, honoree at The Premier Party**. "These institutions enrich our lives and nourish our souls. I am in awe of their creativity, happy to support their success through my consulting work, and truly humbled to be recognized by BalletX."

Lead sponsors for BalletX's Premier Party include Susan & Jeff Campbell, John & Jody Arnhold, A. Morris Williams & Elaine Woo Camarda, Arthur M. Kaplan & R. Duane Perry, Neal W. Krouse, and Jeanne B. Fisher & Robert F. Lang. Proceeds from the annual fundraising gala go to support the company's world premiere commissions, artistic programs and education & community initiatives.

Following The Premier Party, BalletX returned to the Mann Center on May 4 & 5 for its highly anticipated Spring Series. The main performances included a world premiere by Amy Hall Garner titled *Switching the Groove*, Trey McIntyre's *Big Ones* set to music by Amy Winehouse, and Justin Peck's *Become a Mountain* performed to live music by composer Dan Deacon. BalletX also offered a special free community pre-show and picnic on May 4 and 5 featuring the company's youth outreach program, the Dance eXchange Dream Team, and more.

To download photos from the Premier Party, [click here](#) (Photo credit: HughE Dillon).

To download photos from the Spring Series, [click here](#) (Photo credit: Arian Molina Soca).

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 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.