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**BalletX Celebrates Summer with July 12 – 23  
Series at the Wilma featuring  
*Sidd: A Hero's Journey*  
based on Hermann Hesse Novel *Siddhartha***

***Choreographer Nicolò Fonte presents daring original full length piece featuring beloved company dancer Andrea Yorita for her final Philadelphia performance***

**PHILADELPHIA (June 28, 2023)** – [BalletX](#), Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet company, returns to the Wilma for its 2023 Summer Series with an extended run from July 12 – 23 featuring *Sidd: A Hero's Journey* by choreographer Nicolò Fonte. The full-length performance based on the classic Hermann Hesse novel *Siddhartha* will mark Fonte's third full length piece choreographed for BalletX and the 10 year anniversary of his first-ever piece choreographed for the company. A special highlight of the series will include beloved company dancer Andrea Yorita, a lead in *Sidd* playing the character The Ego, who will be saying farewell to the BalletX stage with her final Philadelphia performances.

"I wanted to drill down to just the themes of this book, and discover ways to express those ideas through dance," says **Choreographer Nicolò Fonte**. "I was attracted to Siddhartha's journey as he attempts to reach spiritual transformation. I have always found the idea of spiritual transformation to be a very compelling concept. In some ways, all my work has to do with that idea. It's gratifying to tackle it in such an overt, literal way with this particular ballet. In a way this was a spiritual journey for myself as I am a dedicated yoga practitioner and the philosophies of yoga are a big part of my creation of Sidd. This work externally manifest my two loves."

Fonte's long-time journey with BalletX began in the Summer Series of 2013 with the hailed "Beautiful Decay" which included dancers young and old to work with the idea that all of our lives, however much we live in the present, are in some ways an ongoing process of decay. Identities are

forged in the fire of our experiences and the energy burned is converted into an undeniable essence. He has also choreographed originals for BalletX in 2015 titled “Beasts” and in 2019 “Steep Drop, Euphoric.” This is a special year for BalletX and Fonte to work together as it marks their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their first performance together. Noted by critics for the unique movement language and highly developed fusion of ideas, dance and design in his works, Fonte’s roots in Ballet began at the Joffrey Ballet School in New York as well as the San Francisco Ballet and New York City Ballet schools. He later danced with Peridance in NYC, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens in Montreal and Duato’s Compañía Nacional de Danza in Madrid. In 2000, Fonte retired from performing to focus on choreography, creating works for The Dutch National Ballet, Houston Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet and more. From 2002-2006, Fonte held a creative partnership with The Göteborg Ballet in Sweden, creating numerous works. Most recently in 2017 Fonte became Resident Choreographer at Oregon Ballet Theater.

Fonte’s focus for BalletX’s 2023 Summer Series is *Siddhartha*, a novel by Hermann Hesse focusing on the spiritual journey and self-discovery of a young man who leaves home to find meaning in life. Fonte’s full length ballet takes the main ideas from this novel and creates a unique experience for the audience. As a creative choice the ballet is set in anywhere or anytime with fabulous set design and lighting done by Michael Korsch and artistic direction from dramaturge Nancy Meckler.

Taking the stage for BalletX’s 2023 Summer Series will be Andrea Yorita, beloved company dancer making her final performance with BalletX playing character The Ego in *Siddh*. Yorita was also a company dancer featured in Fonte’s first BalletX piece featured 10 years ago in “*Beautiful Decay*.” After 11 incredible years, Yorita will be starting a new chapter and stepping off the BalletX stage following the 2022 – 2023 Season. Yorita has performed with the company in over 70 world premiere ballets and has supported BalletX’s growth in every way. The public can be part of Yorita’s final Philadelphia performances during the Summer Series running from July 12-23.

“Andie is an integral part of the BalletX family,” says **Christine Cox, Artistic and Executive Director of BalletX**. “She has made a long lasting impact on the dance community in Philadelphia and beyond. I am eternally grateful for the time we have spent together and am looking forward to sharing this special moment with the audience as she dances in her final performances with our company.”

“BalletX has become more than just a job for me,” says **BalletX Company Dancer, Andrea Yorita**. “I am so lucky to have joined this company and become part of a larger family. I have grown tremendously as a dancer but wasn’t expecting how much I would grow as a human throughout my time here as well. I am very grateful for that.”

The Summer Series 2023 will be approximately 90 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](mailto:boxoffice@balletx.org). More information is also available at [BalletX.org](https://www.balletx.org).

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](https://www.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 60 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](http://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](http://BalletX.org/pressroom).