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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BalletX Tech-Infused Summer Series 2016
Two World Premieres by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and Matthew Neenan
In Collaboration with Virtual Art Shop Klip Collective**

WHAT: Starting on Wednesday, July 6 through Sunday, July 17, 2016, **BalletX**, Philadelphia's Premier Contemporary Ballet, will present an extended two-week run of its **Summer Series 2016** at The Wilma Theater. The *Summer Series* brings together two powerhouse choreographers, **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa** and **Matthew Neenan**, with virtual art shop **Klip Collective**.

"We are thrilled to present two of BalletX's most beloved choreographers, co-founder **Matthew Neenan** and **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa**. Our collaborator **Klip Collective** excels at rethinking creative space making through visual technology, which aligns perfectly with our mission to expand the vocabulary of classical dance. We look forward to joining forces," says **Christine Cox**, Founder, Artistic and Executive Director.

"[My] piece will be about the journey of a lone man into the world of Belgian surrealist **Rene Magritte**," says choreographer **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa**. Working with Magritte-inspired imagery, **Klip Collective** will design scenic projections to accompany the music and performances. Skyscapes littered with bowler hats, apples, and windows will come alive in subtle contexts, allowing the dance to remain at the foreground. "Rene Magritte comes from the same neighborhood as me. Maybe that's why I feel the connection to his work," says Ochoa. *Dance Magazine* has praised the Columbo-Belgian choreographer's work for "making a vital impact on contemporary ballet" with abstract, yet virtuosic movement that creates what Ochoa calls "constructed chaos." Ochoa's previous premieres with BalletX include 2011's *Bare* and *Castrati*, and 2008's *Still@Life*; the latter two were recently featured in the company's 10th Anniversary Retrospective.

BalletX co-Founder **Matthew Neenan** has been hailed as "one of the most appealing and singular voices in ballet today" (*The New York Times*). Neenan's piece will honor the late **Toni Hamilton**, writer and longtime friend of BalletX. Following her passing after a battle with Alzheimer's disease, a close family member entrusted Neenan with a collection of Hamilton's manuscripts. "Solitude was important to her writing," says Neenan, who connected with a side of Hamilton he never knew in life, and found inspiration in the manuscripts' capacity to expand and intensify his memories of her. **Klip Collective** will explore the dichotomy of light and dark with a dynamic use of shadows and video projection, incorporating scenic elements right from Hamilton's manuscripts. Geometric shapes and optical illusions will create a dramatic environment as the work wrestles with the notion that memory fades, and sometimes reappears in unexpected ways. With *Summer Series* closing out BalletX's 10th Anniversary, a season marked by both forward thinking and reflection, Neenan emerges as providentially

BalletX

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positioned to woo audiences with a meditation on the mysterious powers of prophecy and recall, while paying tribute to a dear friend.

Klip Collective integrates immersive projection lighting and technology with storytelling to create compelling experiences, which have been commissioned by Sundance Film Festival, Philadelphia Flower Show, Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts, and Longwood Gardens. Klip Collective's art reel can be viewed at <http://www.klip.tv/>

The Summer Series 2016 sponsor is the William Penn Foundation, Toni Hamilton Memorial Fund, and the National Endowment of the Arts.

Tickets are general admission and range from \$35 to \$45 with discounts available to seniors and students. Tickets available through The Wilma Theater box office and online at <http://www.balletx.org/>

VISUALS: World premiere choreography and performances, high-quality video and lighting projection content

WHO: Christine Cox, Matthew Neenan, Tara Keating, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Toni Hamilton, Klip Collective, BalletX dancers

WHEN:

WEEK ONE:

Wednesday, July 6, 8:00PM
Thursday, July 7, 8:00PM
Friday, July 8, 8:00PM
Saturday, July 9, 8:00PM

WEEK TWO:

Wednesday, July 13, 8:00PM
Thursday, July 14, 8:00PM
Friday, July 15, 8:00PM
Saturday, July 16, 2:00PM
Saturday, July 16, 8:00PM
Sunday, July 17, 2:00PM

WHERE: **The Wilma Theater**, 265 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

About BalletX: BalletX unites world-class choreographers with an outstanding company of professional dancers to forge new works of athleticism, emotion, and grace. Through the daring vision of its award-winning founders, Christine Cox and Matthew Neenan, BalletX challenges the boundaries of classical ballet by encouraging formal experimentation while preserving rigorous technique. The company is committed to producing new works of the highest quality and integrity that bring the combined visions of choreographers and dancers to life and cultivate in audiences a collective appetite for bold new dance. For more information, visit www.balletx.org.

BalletX 2015-2016 10th Anniversary Season is made possible through the generous support of: William Penn Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation (10th Anniversary Season Sponsor), Wyncote Foundation, Shubert Foundation, Vista at Fierce Advocacy Fund, CHG Charitable Trust, Leo Model Foundation, Suzanne Roberts Cultural Development Fund, Zeldin Family Foundation, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Stockton Rush Bartol Foundation, Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Top of the Tower, AKA Rittenhouse, Marathon Grill, Victory Brewing Company, Moore Brothers Wine Company, The Sporting Club at the Bellevue, and PECO.

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