



BalletX
P.O. Box 22713
Philadelphia, PA 19110-2713
www.BalletX.org

MEDIA CONTACT:
Inna Heasley
215.280.4824 | publicity@balletX.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BalletX Presents Spring Series 2010 at The Wilma Theater
With Three World Premieres and One Company Premiere
April 14-18, 2010**

PHILADELPHIA, PA: Contemporary dance company BalletX presents its Spring Series 2010, with original dance works by guest choreographers Thang Dao, Lauren Putty, and co-artistic director Christine Cox. BalletX will also present a company premiere of *Carry Me* by Philadelphia's own Myra Bazell and Monica Favand. Performances are scheduled for Wednesday through Sunday, April 14th-18th at The Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia. Tickets: \$30, Senior \$25, Student \$20 – on sale at The Wilma Theater Box Office, 215-546-7824 or at www.balletx.org.

Performance Dates/Times**:

Wednesday April 14 at 8:00 PM (post-performance Q&A with the choreographers)

Thursday April 15 at 8:00 PM

Friday April 16 at 8:00 PM

Saturday April 17 at 2:00 PM (post-performance Q&A with the directors)

Saturday April 17 at 8:00 PM

Sunday April 18 at 2:00 PM

Audiences are invited to attend a free public lecture *Inside The Mind of a Dancer* exploring movement creation for all ages, with co-artistic directors Christine Cox and Matthew Neenan, on **Sunday, April 18th, at 11:00 AM at The Wilma Theater. Reservations required at info@balletx.org.

BalletX's co-artistic director Christine Cox says that she and co-director Matthew Neenan are convinced that dance is "an evolution of something that is driving us all. Even people who *think* they do not like to dance, secretly want to move when the music starts." Cox and Neenan say they are committed to building a dance company to which everyone can relate. "We want to create a fun and relaxing experience for the audience, a time for family and friends to enjoy something exciting, something that is part of Philadelphia's diverse cultural scene," Neenan comments.

After an absence of two and a half years, Cox returns to the stage paired with Tara Keating in *CARRY ME*, a BalletX premiere of a duet dance choreographed by the renowned **Myra Bazell** of the SCRAP Performance Group and **Monica Favand**. This classic Philadelphia dance work premiered in 1992 with Group Motion Dance Company and was featured in the PBS "Great Performances" series.

Carry Me, set to music by John Hodian and Arvo Pärt, is a delicate look at the reversal of roles between parent and child and is a celebration of family, birth and our capacity to love. “Because it was inspired by the cycles of life, I thought it appropriate to give it a new breath and to see it embodied by such a vibrant young and courageous company as BalletX,” Bazell commented.

Thang Dao’s Philadelphia debut *ONE WORD PLAY* is about “the way we use and manipulate words to construct our identity and power.” With costumes by award-winning designer Calvin Tran, Dao’s work is set to the music of Ezio Bosso, a young Italian composer whose sound Dao deems “very complimentary for choreography because it supports the soul of the choreographer's direction, rather than dictates.”

Dao, born in Danang, Vietnam, is a dancer and choreographer based in New York City, and director of Thang Dao Dance Company. In 2009, he received the Princess Grace Choreography Fellowship.

Lauren Putty’s piece, entitled *HIDE*, tells a story of “how we sometimes don’t want to be open about who we are because of our personal struggles.” Putty promises a dance that will be poignant, thought provoking, and aesthetically captivating. She will use a compilation of music from the Cinematic Orchestra, Vitamin String Quartet, and two Soul artists/song-writers, Kem and Adele.

Putty, 26, is a graduate of University of The Arts in Philadelphia and a dancer with Parsons Dance Company. Putty has been acknowledged for her outstanding choreography at the University. Her work has also been featured in the Elan Awards and American Dance Guild Festival.

Christine Cox follows up her last year’s Dr. Seuss-inspired hit *The Striped Hat* with *’X’ OR ‘Y’*, a lively piece set to Mozart’s Piano Concerto 21 and an electro-tango ensemble. “My work is a chance to explore my physical self in a very different time in my life, stepping back in my body and look at what I have learned through living as opposed to dancing, and to find a different style in my movement choices,” Cox said.

BalletX dancers for its Spring Series include Christopher Adams, Alan Alberto, Kelsey Buchanan, Josh Christopher, Christine Cox, Colby Damon, Tara Keating, and Anitra N. Keegan.

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