



**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
Inna Lobanova-Heasley  
Public Relations Manager  
215.280.4824  
[publicity@balletX.org](mailto:publicity@balletX.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BalletX Inaugural Season Finale at The Wilma Theater with  
All-Female Choreographers Project  
July 23-27, 2008**

PHILADELPHIA, PA: Contemporary ballet company BalletX presents its 2007-2008 season finale, All-Female Choreographers Project, with three world premieres by **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa**, **Helen Pickett** and **Christine Cox**, Wednesday-Saturday, July 23-26 at 8 pm, and Sunday, July 27 at 2 pm, at The Wilma Theater. Tickets, \$25 General and \$20 Student/Senior, can be purchased at The Wilma Theater Box Office, 265 S. Broad Street, by phone 215-546-7824 and at [www.WilmaTheater.org](http://www.WilmaTheater.org). BalletX's programs on July 23rd and 24th will include open forums about women in dance presented by this international trio of choreographers.

In her first ever collaboration with an American dance company, Netherlands-based choreographer **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa** (Scapino Ballet) will present *Still@Life*, a group piece set to music by J. S. Bach and von Wassenaer and inspired by still-life paintings and portraits from the Baroque era. "When I look at the great Baroque paintings showing people in religious scenes, I often wonder what happens to these people right before and after that moment in time." Lopez Ochoa continues: "This light humorous work will recreate some of these Baroque paintings in a *tableau vivant* (living picture) with dancers moving at the same time in different directions."

**Helen Pickett** (Ballet Frankfurt) will premiere *Union*, her first collaborative work with BalletX. This ballet was inspired by innovative techniques used by Brazilian artist Vic Muniz. "My questions while making the piece dealt with the multifaceted expression of union through deconstruction and rebuilding," Pickett explains. "How does one create different versions of union? How does the energy of union work? What are the strengths?"

The piece is in three sections united by a common musical theme. The music is written especially for *Union* by a German-based composer and musician **Bernd Sippel**, who creates music for film, video and dance. *Union* is his first collaboration with Pickett and BalletX.

BalletX Co-Artistic Director **Christine Cox**, a recipient of the PA Council on the Arts 2008 Award for choreography, is revising one of her earlier creations, *Numb Roads*, which premiered in 2001 as part of *Shut Up and Dance*. “I will create a sequel about staying single in a society that pushes us to be in a relationship. This work is about feeling complete as a solo individual. It is inspired by a poem *If you forget me* written by Pablo Neruda and recited by Madonna.” Cox’s piece is set to music of Portishead, a trip-hop group based in Bristol, England.

Costumes for this project are designed and produced by **Martha Chamberlain**, principal dancer of the PA Ballet, who returns to BalletX as a designer after working on Matthew Neenan's most recent piece, *Right To Spring*.

BalletX welcomes guest dancers **Francis Veyette** (soloist of Pennsylvania Ballet), **Vincent McCloskey** (Mark Morris and free lance NY dancer) and **Ja' Malik** (Oakland Ballet). They join company members **Rosalia Chann**, **Tara Keating**, **Matthew Neenan**, **Anitra Nurnberger**, **Meredith Rainey** and **Emily Wagner**.

As part of its ongoing outreach program, BalletX will sponsor two opportunities for the audience to get involved in discussions of dance issues. There will be a Question-and-Answer session right after the Wednesday night opening performance. On Thursday, July 24, at 4:00 PM, at The Wilma Theater, BalletX will present a panel discussion "Celebrating Female Choreographers in Ballet". The panel will include the project’s choreographers, as well as BalletX Co-Artistic Director **Matthew Neenan**, Artistic Director of Pennsylvania Ballet **Roy Kaiser**, and Editor of *Pointe* Magazine **Virginia Johnson** (moderator). This discussion is free and open to the public. Previous outreach events have included works with the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Free Library of Philadelphia and Project H.O.M.E.

BalletX will soon be among the performers representing the United States at the first international “Ballet Expo Seoul 2008” held by the Korea Ballet Association and National Theater of Korea under the motto “Ballet for All”, August 16-23, 2008.

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**BalletX is a Philadelphia-based contemporary dance company that seeks to expand the vocabulary of classical ballet for all audiences.**

**BalletX | P.O. Box 22713, Philadelphia, PA 19110-2713 | [www.BalletX.org](http://www.BalletX.org)**

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