

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ANGEL CORELLA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2015–2016 SEASON

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:

Veronica Mikitka Reed, For Pennsylvania Ballet

Cell: 484-241-0473

vmikitka@mavenagency.com

Pennsylvania Ballet Returning to The Joyce Theater

Pennsylvania Ballet Presenting Three Works Choreographed for the Company

Philadelphia, PA (January 20, 2015) – [Pennsylvania Ballet](#) under the artistic direction of Angel Corella returns to New York City's The Joyce Theater with three pieces premiered by the Company. The made for Pennsylvania Ballet pieces include Matthew Neenan's *Keep*, Trey McIntyre's *The Accidental*, and Nicolo Fonte's *Grace Action*, which will be performed March 29 – April 3 at The Joyce Theater.

"I'm excited to bring Pennsylvania Ballet to The Joyce Theater and reconnect with my fans in a new way," said Artistic Director Angel Corella. "Our program consisting of three ballets created for our Company is the perfect way to showcase our dancers' abilities and talent in a city that was my home for nearly two decades."

Matthew Neenan's *Keep* is an intimate, sensitive and passionate pas de deux that delves into the challenges of love and relationships through a central couple, a corps quartet and several solos throughout the ballet. *Keep* is set to Alexander Borodin's String Quartet #2 in D Major and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's String Quartet in F Major. Vibrant costumes were designed by former Pennsylvania Ballet Principal Dancer Martha Chamberlain.

"I consider *Keep* one of my signature works – I created it at a pivotal time in my development as a choreographer, at a moment when I was revisiting my classical ballet roots," said Matthew Neenan, choreographer in residence. "It is a challenging piece for the dancers both technically and emotionally as they share their natural selves in order to portray the struggles of love."

Trey McIntyre's *The Accidental* is a contemporary ballet that allows the dancers to play off each other, using the weight of their partner as an obstacle to overcome with grace. The musical score is a handful of songs from Patrick Watson's album "Adventures in Your own Backyard."

"The creation of this work was based on my experiences and instinctual reactions with each of the dancers," said Trey McIntyre, choreographer. "The piece is named *The Accidental* because of the process of experimentation and exploration in the studio and the ways in which our different stylistic backgrounds reacted with one another."

Nicolo Fonte's *Grace Action* is his first work with the Company and features 12 dancers. The ballet is anchored by the music of Philip Glass and is startlingly intimate and full of sweeping emotion. This music

inspired Fonte to create choreography that portrays answering absence with presence, and the seeking of wholeness.

“*Grace Action* grew out of a desire to create something analogous to the music of Philip Glass - serene and beautiful on the surface yet full of rippling undercurrents and mystery embedded in its nature. The title *Grace Action* is an allusion to a contradiction, to a duality - the strength, energy and power of the ballet is only the means through which lightness, vulnerability and fragility are explored and brought out,” said Nicolo Fonte, choreographer. “Even in its most abstract forms, dance allows for an expressive language to emerge and I wanted this language to be rooted in the natural elegance of the dancers and for them to find grace, even in difficult actions.”

The performances are:

- Tuesday and Wednesday, March 29- 30 at 7:30pm
- Thursday and Friday, March 31 – April 1 at 8pm
- Saturday, April 2 at 2pm and 8pm
- Sunday, April 3 at 2pm

Tickets are available online at www.Joyce.org.

Curtain Chat

(Wednesday, March 30)

The Joyce Theater will hold a post-performance dialogue with Company members following Pennsylvania Ballet’s March 30th performance. This dialogue is open to all audience members attending that evening’s performance.

About Pennsylvania Ballet

Founded in 1963 by Balanchine student and protégée Barbara Weisberger, Pennsylvania Ballet is one of the nation’s leading ballet companies. Headquartered in Philadelphia, the Company’s annual season features six programs of classic favorites and new works, including the Philadelphia holiday tradition, *George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker™*. For more information, visit paballet.org, call 215.551.7000 or connect with us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) to go behind the scenes at any time.

About The Joyce Theater Foundation,

A non-profit organization, The Joyce Theater Foundation has proudly served the dance community and its audiences for three decades. The founders, Cora Cahan and Eliot Feld, acquired and renovated the Elgin Theater in Chelsea, which opened as The Joyce Theater in 1982. The Joyce Theater is named in honor of Joyce Mertz, beloved daughter of LuEsther T. Mertz. It was LuEsther’s clear, undaunted vision and abundant generosity that made it imaginable and ultimately possible to build the theater. One of the only theaters built by dancers for dance, The Joyce Theater has provided an intimate and elegant home for more than 320 domestic and international companies. The Joyce has also commissioned more than 130 new dances since 1992. In 2009, The Joyce opened Dance Art New York (DANY) Studios to provide affordable studios for rehearsals, auditions, classes, and workshops for independent choreographers, nonprofit dance companies, and the dance/theater communities. New York City public school students and teachers annually benefit from The Joyce’s Dance Education Program, and adult audiences get closer to dance through pre-engagement Dance Talks and post-performance Dance Chats. The Joyce Theater now features an annual season of approximately 48 weeks with over 340 performances for audiences in excess of 135,000.

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