PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ANGEL CORELLA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2016-2017 SEASON

For Immediate Release

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Pennsylvania Ballet Completes the 2016/2017 Season with Two Spring Programs

Pennsylvania Ballet Presents Romance in April including a World Premiere by Nicolo Fonte and Re/Action in May with a World Premiere by Matthew Neenan

Philadelphia, PA (March 15, 2017) - Pennsylvania Ballet and Artistic Director Angel Corella will finish the 2016/2017 season with two mixed bill programs: Romance in April, featuring the World Premiere of Nicolo Fonte's Ghost Stories; and the final program, Re/Action, in May which includes a World Premiere by Choreographer in Residence, Matthew Neenan. Romance, supported by ALGER, will run April 6-9 at The Merriam Theater, and Re/Action will run May 11-14 at The Academy of Music.

"We are thrilled to culminate our 16/17 season with two mixed bill programs that bring some of ballet's finest choreography to Philadelphia," said Angel Corella. "Romance will demonstrate different perspectives on ballet from three great choreographers while Re/Action will honor Balanchine's unique understanding of technical precision in three pas de deux."

Romance Running April 6-9 Features the World Premiere of Nicolo Fonte's Ghost Stories

April's program, Romance features a repertoire comprised of Nacho Duato's Remansos, a Nicolo Fonte World Premiere, and George Balanchine's Western Symphony.

Originally premiered in 1997, Nacho Duato's emotional *Remansos* is a simple piece for three men and three women featuring fluid and compelling choreography. Set to a haunting score for solo piano by Enrique Granados, Duato gives the piece a contemporary feel while keeping the focus on the buoyancy of the dancer's forms.

The program will also include the debut of Nicolo Fonte's Ghost Stories, which takes audiences to a world of simplicity. Set to four movements by Ezio Bosso and Max Richter, the piece explores the emotion of hope in building a community to diminish the sense of feeling alone.

"The primary inspiration for creating this ballet essentially sprung from the music of Ezio Bosso and Max Richter. I was overcome by both the beauty and the ease in these scores and loved how they worked together. Mysterious yet friendly, profound yet simple- the music creates for me a subtext in which to explore simple choreographic structures. Unison, duets, trios and the accumulative effect of progressing from a lone dancer to many are some of the ways my inward journey for this ballet reaches its final, outward destination," said Fonte.

George Balanchine's Western Symphony closes Romance. Set to the lively orchestrations of Hershey Kay's songs from the American West, Western Symphony is packed with tongue in cheek humor and fast paced vignettes that showcase classical ballet infused with the gestures and formations of American folk dance.

Re/Action Running May 11-14 Features a World Premiere by Matthew Neenan

For their final program of the season, Pennsylvania Ballet will present *Re/Action*; a repertoire program featuring the Company Premiere of Christopher Wheeldon's *Rush*, George Balanchine's *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*, *Tarantella*, and *Rubies*; and a Matthew Neenan World Premiere.

Rush, a Company Premiere by Christopher Wheeldon, combines postmodern style with Bohuslav Martinů's vernal score to create a fresh dance experience with traditional roots. The ballet pays homage to the pas de deux, with two dancers being the center of the piece.

Originally written for Act III of *Swan Lake* the music for *Tchaikovsky Pas De Deux* was given exposure by George Balanchine in 1953 when he took the moving Tchaikovsky score and choreographed a piece to showcase ballet bravura and technique.

Tarantella, also features music brought back to life by George Balanchine. The score, by American musical prodigy Louis Gottschalk, received its World Premiere at the Academy of Music in 1864.

The program ends with the central pas de deux from *Rubies*, the second act of Balanchine's full-length work, *Jewels. Rubies* portrays the fast-paced and glamourous style of New York City. Set to a jazz-inflected score by Igor Stravinsky, *Rubies* features sharp movements and a neoclassical style of dance that is sure to energize the audience.

Rounding out this dynamic program is a much-anticipated **World Premiere** by Pennsylvania Ballet's Choreographer in Residence, Matthew Neenan. The concept for this premiere was manifested thirteen years ago, when Neenan collaborated with Steven Early Weber, a visual artist. Set to different Vivaldi's Cello Concertos, Neenan's piece will delve into the concept of falling asleep, a state in which it is said Salvador Dali came up with his best thoughts.

"I've been the resident choreographer with Pennsylvania Ballet for nearly ten years and have had the pleasure of working with many extraordinary dancers here," said Neenan, "I love capitalizing on the talents of the new dancers in the company I am just getting to know, but also collaborating with dancers that I know very well, dancers I've worked with (and even danced with) over many years. The company is very strong, filled with fearless, technically astounding dancers, and to be given such a skilled group is a dream for a choreographer."

The performances for Romance at The Merriam Theater:

- Thursday, April 6 at 7:30pm
- Friday, April 7 at 7:30pm
- Saturday, April 8 at 2:00pm
- Saturday, April 8 at 8:00pm
- Sunday, April 9 at 2:00pm

The performances for Re/Action at The Academy of Music:

- Thursday, May 11 at 7:30pm
- Friday, May 12 at 7:30pm
- Saturday, May 13 at 2:00pm
- Saturday, May 13 at 8:00pm
- Sunday, May 14 at 2:00pm

Conversations with Pennsylvania Ballet

Please join us for Conversations with Pennsylvania Ballet, a free and informal discussion where a Pennsylvania Ballet dancer will talk about their experience preparing for an upcoming program. This free event will be held on Monday, April 3 and again on Monday, May 8 at the Philadelphia City Institute Free Library (1905 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA).

Preludes

Ignite your passion for dance with Preludes- Pennsylvania Ballet's 30-minute pre-show discussions. Held in the theater an hour prior to all performances, Preludes features a changing roster of company members, artistic and administrative staff, and visiting artists discussing Pennsylvania Ballet's performances, taking questions, and offering behind-the-scenes insights. Preludes begins one hour prior to show time and is free and open to all patrons holding a ticket for the performance that follows. Preludes is a great way to meet other ballet fans, enhance your knowledge of the art form, and get to know the artists behind Pennsylvania Ballet's beautiful and thrilling performances.

Please note: Preludes is free and open to all ticket holders for the day listed on the ticket.

About Pennsylvania Ballet

Founded in 1963 by Balanchine protégée Barbara Weisberger, Pennsylvania Ballet is one of the nation's leading ballet companies. Headquartered in Philadelphia, the Company's annual local 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.

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Pennsylvania Ballet's season sponsors include DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, The Sporting Club at the Bellevue, and American Airlines.

Pennsylvania Ballet receives support from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts – a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency – and The Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

Groups of 10 or more get discounts on great seats! Ask about special talks with staff and dancers and dining options near the theater for your group. For tickets and information, contact Group Sales Manager, Arajua Backman at 215.587.6921 or abackman@paballet.org.

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