

BAM 2019 Winter/Spring Season

With its BAM debut, Ballet British Columbia celebrates 10 years of Emily Molnar's artistic leadership

Program includes William Forsythe's *Enemy in the Figure*, Emily Molnar's *To This Day*, and Crystal Pite's *Solo Echo*

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

Ballet British Columbia (Ballet BC)

Choreography by Crystal Pite, Emily Molnar, and William Forsythe

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave)

Jun 13—15 at 7:30pm

Tickets start at \$20

May 7, 2019/Brooklyn, NY—Ballet BC makes its BAM debut in celebration of 10 years of Emily Molnar's artistic direction. In a decade's time, Molnar has turned the financially strapped company into one of the most potent dance forces in Canada, with a determined focus on contemporary ballet and artistic collaboration.

Ballet BC presents three contemporary creations tracing a common lineage to the influential William Forsythe, the former director of Ballett Frankfurt—in which Molnar and Crystal Pite both danced. The program starts with his 1989 masterpiece *Enemy in the Figure*. With a wavy wall and a pulsating rope dissecting the stage, a rhythmically driven score by Thom Willems, and dancers in and out of shadows, *Enemy in the Figure* remains mysterious and exhilarating. Molnar's *To This Day* is a celebration of Molnar's fruitful tenure at the company. Inspired by and set to the music of Jimi Hendrix, the piece reveals the intimate and daring space where the blues meets her expressive style. *Solo Echo* by Crystal Pite is inspired by Mark Strand's poem *Lines for Winter* and set to two Brahms sonatas for cello and piano (the Allegro non troppo movement of the E minor, op. 38 and the Adagio affettuoso movement of the F major, op. 99). It moves from aggression to yearning, from the individual to the collective, and from conflict to acceptance.

Founded in 1986, **Ballet BC** has been under the leadership of Artistic Director Emily Molnar since 2009. Ballet BC is an internationally acclaimed, collaborative and creation-based company that is a leader in the creation, production, and education of contemporary dance in Canada. Bold and innovative, the company's distinctive style and approach has made a unique and valuable contribution to the development of dance. Ballet BC presents

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a diverse repertoire of Canadian and international work from the late 20th and early 21st centuries, and is a hotbed for the creation and performance of new works. Under Molnar, former member of the National Ballet of Canada, Ballet BC, and Ballett Frankfurt, the company actively fosters collaborations that support artists, choreographers, and audiences alike, furthering the boundaries of contemporary dance.

Raised in New York and initially trained in Florida with Nolan Dingman and Christa Long, **William Forsythe** danced with the Joffrey Ballet and later the Stuttgart Ballet, where he was appointed resident choreographer in 1976. In 1984, he began a 20-year tenure as director of Ballett Frankfurt. After its closure, Forsythe established a new ensemble, The Forsythe Company, which he directed from 2005 to 2015. Forsythe's most recent works were developed and performed exclusively by The Forsythe Company, while his earlier pieces are prominently featured in the repertoire of virtually every major ballet company in the world, including the Mariinsky Ballet, New York City Ballet, and Paris Opera Ballet. Aside from his work as a choreographer, Forsythe is a professor of dance and artistic advisor for the Choreographic Institute at the University of Southern California Gloria Kaufman School of Dance.

Emily Molnar is a graduate of the National Ballet School and a former member of the National Ballet of Canada, a soloist with Ballett Frankfurt under William Forsythe, and a principal dancer with Ballet BC. An internationally respected and critically acclaimed dance artist and choreographer, Molnar has worked and toured extensively throughout Europe, Asia, Mexico, Canada, and the US. Named *The Globe and Mail's* 2013 Dance Artist of the Year, Molnar is the 2016 recipient of the Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award, BC Community Achievement Award, and the YWCA Women of Distinction Award in Art, Culture & Design. She was recently appointed to the Order of Canada for her artistic leadership of Ballet BC and creative contribution to advancing dance in Canada. Molnar is also artistic director of dance at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

Canadian choreographer and performer **Crystal Pite** is a former company member of Ballet BC and Ballett Frankfurt. Pite's professional choreographic debut was in 1990 at Ballet BC. Since then, she has created over 40 works for Nederlands Dans Theater, Cullberg Ballet, Ballett Frankfurt, National Ballet of Canada, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal (resident choreographer, 2001—2004), Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, and Louise Lecavalier/Fou Glorieux. She has also collaborated with Electric Company Theatre and Robert Lepage. Pite is associate choreographer of Nederlands Dans Theater and associate dance artist of Canada's National Arts Centre. In 2013, she was appointed associate artist at Sadler's Wells. Pite founded Kidd Pivot, a Vancouver-based company in 2012. Integrating movement, original music, text, and visual design, the company's distinct choreographic language—a breadth of movement fusing classical elements and the complexity and freedom of structured improvisation—is marked by a strong theatrical sensibility and a keen sense of wit and invention.

For press information, contact David Hsieh at dhsieh@BAM.org or 718.724.8027.

Credits

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General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place (between Lafayette Ave and Hanson Place), houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas features first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater) D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.

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