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NEWS RELEASE

“The choreography was bold and fast-paced, perfectly complementing the music’s intensity, and once again demonstrated Walerski’s unparalleled ability to command an ensemble of such size with precision and emotion.” – [PBS](#)

Ballet BC Returns with Works New to The Soraya
Performances created by
Medhi Walerski and Crystal Pite Launch
The Soraya’s 2024-25 Dance Program and Marks Fourth
Appearance for the Dance Company-in-Residence

Sat, Nov 23 at 8PM; *Tickets start at \$48 and are now available*
at [TheSoraya.org](https://www.thesoraya.org).

(Los Angeles, CA) Oct. 29, 2024 — Two of **The Soraya’s** most popular choreographers—**Medhi Walerski** and **Crystal Pite**—will return this Fall with works performed by **Ballet BC**, The Soraya’s dance company-in-residence on Nov. 23 at 8 p.m. The evening will include “Chamber” and “Silent Tides” by Walerski, Ballet BC’s Artistic Director, and Pite’s re-imagined and restaged “Frontier,” which originally premiered at Netherlands Dance Theater and was danced by Walerski who describes the work as, “epic...an experimentation of the relationship between light and shadows.”

Previously at The Soraya in 2022, Pite received acclaim for “The Statement,” her humorous and biting creation around a conference table. Walerski’s “Chamber,” also created for Netherland’s Dance Theater, premiered in 2013, a response to the centenary of “Rite of Spring,” and possesses many of the ritualistic and tribal qualities of Stravinsky’s and Diaghilev’s original groundbreaking masterpiece. These performances mark Ballet BC’s fourth visit to The Soraya, dating back to the 2019 performances of “Romeo + Juliet.”

Ballet BC’s relationship with The Soraya, located on the campus of Cal State Northridge in the San Fernando Valley, dates to 2019, a year in which the company performed “Romeo + Juliet,” the

timeless tale of two lovers choreographed by Walecki and set to the well-known 1938 score by composer Sergei Prokofiev.

“Medhi Walecki is one of the great figures in the dance world - dancer, choreographer, and now Artistic Director of Ballet BC,” said Thor Steingraber, Soraya Executive and Artistic Director. “He is known worldwide for his outsized contribution to contemporary ballet, in a professional life that is still in the earliest stages of its unfolding. We are fortunate to have such a vital and robust partnership with Ballet BC and proud to include them as our dance company-in-residence.”

About the Ballet BC Dance Program*

For Medhi Walecki, the rhythmic momentum and discordant tensions in Stravinsky’s “The Rite of Spring” make it one of the most vibrant compositions of all time, and he describes the creation of “Chamber” as an echo of what the score provokes in his imagination. Performed to original music by the eminent British composer Joby Talbot, Walecki centralizes the performers in a ritualistic dance that seeks to strike a balance between order and chaos, charging the theatre space with a darkened, absorbing energy. The choreography is bold and fast-paced, perfectly complementing the music’s intensity, and once again demonstrated Walecki’s unparalleled ability to command an ensemble of such size with precision and emotion.

In contrast, “Silent Tides” is an intimate work for two dancers that reflects our relationship to one another and to ourselves—the infinite gates where our bodies receive nourishment and otherness, vibration and energy. With just a single neon light bar as a backdrop, the dancers’ graceful movements are filled with tenderness and vulnerability, inviting the audience into a dialogue of connection and distance, self and other.

One of the most in-demand female choreographers in the world, Canadian **Crystal Pite**, is also represented on the program with an all-new version of her 2008 piece, “Frontier,” which Walecki said is simply, “epic...an experimentation of the relationship between light and shadows.”

The decision to include an expanded and restaged version of “Frontier” was made during a discussion between Pite and Walecki, in which he expressed the company’s interest in continuing a relationship with Pite and asked what she would be interested in adding to the 2024-25 Season.

“She identified “Frontier” and said, ‘Ah that’s a work that I would like to revisit and recreate some parts,’ because she felt like there were still some things she wanted to refine,” Walecki said. “She’s also reworked the costumes and the entire middle section with the dancers. So (it’s) an entirely new piece almost that is the center of the work.”

Pite’s “Frontier,” reimagined for Ballet BC, will premiere in the company’s tour in early November. Featuring 24 dancers, it’s a rare opportunity to see a large-scale work of Pite’s in California.

**Note: "Chamber" and "Silent Tides" performances contain partial nudity.*

About Ballet BC, The Soraya's Dance Company-in-Residence

Ballet BC was named The Soraya's dance company-in-residence in 2023, ahead of its third visit to performing arts center, and had [two world premieres](#) at The Soraya on May 6, 2023 — "Passing" by Swedish born, former Netherlands Dance Theater dancer, and award-winning choreographer Johan Inger, and 20 "People" by Israeli dancer and choreographer Roy Assaf. The company's Nov. 23, 2024, engagement marks its fourth at The Soraya, and cements the San Fernando Valley as a second "home" for the dancers and Walerski.

"I think what's beautiful about the relationship with The Soraya is that it feels very familiar, very supportive...and that's rare nowadays in the dance world...to find theaters willing to commit and to support a company in the long run," [Walerski said in an interview with Steingraber](#). "It feels like going to a second home almost...a place that we feel really good and can focus just on putting on the best show for the audience."

Walerski added that the relationship extends *beyond* the stage, as he is well aware of the impact Ballet BC has on Soraya patrons. "(There are) people who have been coming since the beginning (in February 2020)...so it feels like we are all together being a part of this growth for the company and the art form we all care about."

For story development and interview requests, please contact:

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About Ballet BC

Founded in 1986 by David Y.H. Lui, Jean Orr, and Sheila Begg, Ballet BC is Canada's leading contemporary dance company. Based in Vancouver and led by Artistic Director Medhi Walerski, the company performs at venues throughout British Columbia and on the world's best stages. Ballet BC dancers are a group of open-minded and curious artists, each unique for their exceptional artistry while sharing an intuitive passion for movement. Deeply committed to new creation in addition to presenting masterworks from today's most sought-after voices in dance, Ballet BC's diverse repertoire includes works by choreographers such as Crystal Pite, Johan Inger, Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar, Medhi Walerski, Out Innerspace, Imre and Marne van Opstal, Roy Assaf, and Micaela Taylor. The company offers a variety of professional development and educational opportunities in the community, aiming to bring the power of dance to the widest audience possible.

About the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for The Performing Arts (The Soraya) is an award-winning, state-of-the-art 1,700-seat theatre designed and built by HGA Architects and Engineers and opened in January 2011 as the Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC). Through a transformative gift by Younes and Soraya Nazarian, the venue was renamed The Soraya in 2017. Vibrant programming has served to establish The Soraya as the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley and its 1.8 million residents and as

one of the top arts and culture venues in Southern California. Since its inaugural season, The Soraya has presented over 500 artists and companies across the genres of music, dance, theater, and film and is a highly in-demand location for filming and rental events.

The Soraya's 2024-25 Season boldly advances the expansive sound of orchestras both traditional and contemporary; the freestyle vibe of jazz; an array of dance luminaries, and a cultural bounty drawn from the musical well of global voices. The Soraya continues its vigorous commitment to innovating, excelling, and amplifying access by offering a wide variety of performances that reflect Los Angeles' many distinctive communities and featuring new and original work and artists from the local region as well as nationally and around the world.

Located on the vibrant campus of California State University Northridge (CSUN), The Soraya and the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication share an integral link that enhances student access and opportunities in the arts and performing arts. A \$5 million contribution from record producer and former California Lieutenant Governor Mike Curb was pivotal in ensuring the completion and opening of The Soraya in 2011. For his founding support and in acknowledgment of the integral relationship between the Mike Curb College and The Soraya, Mike Curb is recognized as one of The Soraya's Cornerstone Benefactors. This partnership fosters academic and artistic excellence, elevating the talents and the future growth of CSUN's students through master classes, student tickets, concerts of student ensembles, and students appearing alongside renowned artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Aida Cuevas, and Martha Graham Dance Company.

What: ***Ballet BC***
Works by Medhi Walerski
and Crystal Pite

Program:
*Chamber (2011)**
*Silent Tides (2021)**
Frontier (2008)

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**Performance contains partial nudity*

Where: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330

Website: www.TheSoraya.org

Tickets: \$48 - \$118

Ticket Office: 818-677-3000

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