



DANCE VICTORIA

THE WORLD'S BEST DANCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2020

Ballet BC's *Romeo + Juliet* Puts a Modern Spin on Shakespeare's Classic **Royal Theatre, March 13 + 14, 7:30 pm**

VICTORIA, B.C. – There's a contemporary familiarity to Ballet BC's [Romeo + Juliet](#) created by French choreographer [Medhi Walerski](#) set to Prokofiev's 1935 score. Walerski is known for making cutting-edge works for major international dance companies including Nederlands Dans Theater where he performed and choreographed for more than a decade. In recent exciting news, Walerski was appointed Ballet BC's new Artistic Director effective July 2020, when he succeeds Emily Molnar who will become Artistic Director of Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT).

Martha Schabas of *The Globe and Mail* states that *Romeo + Juliet* is "Mr. Walerski at his most visionary." His version of Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers will feel familiar to audiences, but the contemporary ballet production offers a fresh and thought-provoking retelling of the classic that profoundly resonates today.

The production's contemporary aesthetic is further enhanced by Dutch set and lighting designer Theun Mosk who creates a stark black and white colour scheme with giant geometric shapes that the dancers move in and around, as well as creative use of light and shadows.

Walerski's Elizabethan inspired costumes mixed with modern dress further lends timelessness to the work. In an interview with *The Georgia Straight*, the choreographer explains, "I wanted something pure, something universal, so that you could connect with the emotions and feelings and psychology of the characters, more than being in Italy or Renaissance time. I got inspired as well with the Elizabethan aesthetic—I just use it as just a flavour. I designed the costumes, and they are contemporary, but they have just a hint of the Elizabethan—the high collars, and the men have these little doublets."

Dance Victoria contributed \$25,000 towards Ballet BC's commission of the creation of *Romeo + Juliet* through its [Crystal Dance Fund](#). The funds supported inclusion of [Arts Umbrella](#) graduate dance students, increasing the number of the corps de ballet in the production. Later this year, the Company will tour the production to Australia's Sydney Opera House for seven performances.

The community is invited to a free, **pre-show chat** at 6:45 pm in the West (Blanshard Street) Lobby of the Royal Theatre prior to both performances.



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Ballet BC

Romeo + Juliet Medhi Walerski

Friday + Saturday, March 13 + 14 • 7:30 pm
Royal Theatre

Tickets: \$29-\$95 ~ Ask about Pay Your Age (ages 12 – 29) & Night Moves (ages 30-45) tickets. Proof of age (picture ID) required at the Box Office
Box Office: 250-386-6121 • Online: [DanceVictoria.com](https://www.dancevictoria.com)

Media Materials

Images with photo credits are available in our password protected area of our website. Email Tracy Smith at marketing@dancevictoria.com to gain access.

About Ballet BC

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 contemporary ballet company that is a leader and resource 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 national contribution to the development of dance. [balletbc.com](https://www.balletbc.com)

Dance Victoria's 2019/20 season concludes with [Tania Pérez-Salas Compañía de Danza](#) – a program of two innovative, theatrical and personal works: *Ex-Stasis* & *3. Catorce Dieciséis* choreographed by Tania Pérez-Salas • May 1 + 2, 2020 • 7:30 pm • Royal Theatre

About Dance Victoria

Dance Victoria brings the *World's Best Dance* to the Royal Theatre and supports the development of new dance for the international stage from its studios in Quadra Village. Dance Victoria is a non-profit charitable society. [DanceVictoria.com](https://www.dancevictoria.com)