

DANCE CONSORTIUM PRESENTS

BALLET BC

PASSING BY JOHAN INCER
FRONTIER BY CRYSTAL PITE




dc dance
consortium

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INSIGHT PACK
FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS
BALLET BC UK TOUR 2025

INTRODUCTION & CONTENTS

Dance Consortium is delighted to present *PASSING* and *Frontier* by Canada's leading contemporary dance company Ballet BC.

These introductory notes are designed for students, teachers and community groups to learn more about Ballet BC, the works and choreographers. Featuring background information and resources for formal and informal learning, these notes can be read alongside the [free show programme](#). 

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*Ballet BC Artist Vivian Ruiz in Frontier by Crystal Pite.
Photo by Michael Slobodian*



ABOUT BALLET BC

Led by Artistic Director Medhi Walerski, Ballet BC is Canada's preeminent contemporary dance company. Founded in 1986 by David Y. H. Lui, Jean Orr and Sheila Begg, with Annette av Paul as founding Artistic Director, Ballet BC has been at the forefront of the creation, production, and education of contemporary dance in Canada and around the world for almost 40 years.

Ballet BC aims to create dance at its most essential: visceral, thought-provoking, and transformative. Attracting top international talent, its twenty dancers are a group of open-minded and curious artists, each unique for their dynamic movement while sharing an intuitive passion for their art form.

The company is deeply committed to creation and collaboration and presents a diverse repertoire that seeks to push the art form forward. Choreographers include William Forsythe, Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar, Medhi Walerski, Crystal Pite, Johan Inger, Imre and Marne van Opstal, Adi Salant, Jiří Kylian, Micaela Taylor, Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber, and Out Innerspace.

Through its bold and distinctive style and approach, Ballet BC has made a unique contribution to the awareness and development of dance in Canada and around the world. The company performs throughout each season at Vancouver's Queen Elizabeth Theatre, and on tour at the world's most renowned stages. Beyond its performances, the company is a leader and resource in the community through a wide range of education and professional development initiatives, which aim to share the power of dance with the widest audience possible.



Artists of Ballet BC in PASSING by Johan Inger. Photo by Luis Luque

BALLET BC ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MEDHI WALERSKI

Medhi Walerski was appointed Artistic Director of Ballet BC in July 2020. His leadership tenure has been highlighted by an artist-centred approach and deep commitment to creation and innovation, an expanded global touring program, increased dancer compensation and equity, a world-renowned brand identity, and unprecedented audience growth.

Raised in France, Walerski initially trained in Normandy with Laurie Bokobza and Christine Caroly before joining the Conservatoire Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris. He danced at the Paris Opera Ballet and the Ballet du Rhin before joining the Nederlands Dans Theater in 2001. For more than a decade, he was an integral part of the company, contributing to the creative, innovative style that NDT is famed for. Walerski was awarded the prestigious Dutch dance prize VSCD Zwaan in 2013.

Walerski has worked closely with many renowned choreographers, creating alongside and performing works by Jiří Kylián, William Forsythe, Ohad Naharin, George Balanchine, Rudolf Nureyev, Paul Lightfoot and Sol Leon, Crystal Pite, Johan Inger, and Wayne McGregor among others. Walerski's choreographic debut was in 2008 for NDT 2. Since then, he has created numerous acclaimed works for NDT and Ballet BC including *Petite Cérémonie* (2011), *Chamber* (2012), *GARDEN* (2016), *Silent Tides* (2021), *just BEFORE right AFTER* (2022), and *Pieces of Tomorrow* (2024), as well as works for Bern Ballet, Goteborg Ballet, the Ballet State of Georgia, StaatBallet Hannover, Staatstheater Wiesbaden and Charlotte Ballet.

As an educator, he is regularly invited to lecture and give workshops at dance conservatories, intensives, and festivals around the world.



Photo by Michael Slobodian

TARGET GROUPS, AGE GUIDANCE & THEATRE VISITS

Running Time: 1 hour 50 minutes (including interval)

Frontier - 28 minutes

PASSING - 55 minutes

Post show Q&A on opening nights (free for ticket holders)

Age guide: 8+ (*PASSING* contains some mature content that may not be appropriate for younger audiences).

The work is suited to students studying performing arts and dance, KS2 and upwards. Students of theatre, art, design, costume, and technical theatre may also find the work of interest.

UNLOCK THE POWER OF DANCE WITH A THEATRE TRIP

Attending live dance performances support learners to grow artistic knowledge and experience different dance styles and influences.

- **Deepen knowledge** by attending a show; a vibrant, multifaceted experience that supports appreciation and critical awareness of varied dance styles & creative influences.
- **Actively Engage** your group via pre-show research including watching the trailers. Set activities during the visit e.g. recalling design elements, music, and choreographic style, noticing dance styles or repeated movement phrases or motifs.
- **Connect** by attending a Q&A, open rehearsal or by booking a dance workshop.
- **Reflect** through sharing feedback via discussion or a written/video review. Develop your own interpretations via creative movement tasks in class inspired and influenced by the work.

Ballet BC dancer Michael Garcia in PASSING by Johan Inger. Photo by Michael Slobodian



UK TOUR TRAILER



The image is a promotional thumbnail for a video trailer. It features a central scene of dancers in a desert landscape with mountains in the background. A large red play button is overlaid on the center. Text elements include the Dance Consortium logo, the title 'Ballet BC', the names of the choreographers 'Passing' and 'Frontier', and a call to action 'UK TOUR 2025 NOW BOOKING'. A 'Share' button is in the top right, and a 'Watch on YouTube' button is in the bottom left.

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Ballet BC | UK Tour 2025 Trailer | Dance Consortium

DANCE CONSORTIUM PRESENTS

BALLET BC

PASSING BY JOHAN INGER
FRONTIER BY CRYSTAL PITE

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**UK TOUR 2025
NOW BOOKING**



***Frontier* | Crystal Pite**

Choreography: Crystal Pite

Music: Owen Belton, Eric Whitacre

Scenic Design: Jay Gower Taylor

Lighting Design: Tom Visser

Costume Design: Nancy Bryant

Associate Costume Design: Kate Burrows

World Premiere: 2008

Ballet BC Premiere: November 2024

Photo by Luis Luque

Originally created in 2008 and re-imagined specifically for Ballet BC in 2024, the visionary, enigmatic *Frontier* examines the unknown—the characterization of dark matter, the personification of shadows.

“As a creator, I find a pleasing parallel between what we don’t know about the universe, and what we don’t know about consciousness” says Pite. “Creation for me is about venturing into unknown territory and being in a generative relationship with doubt.”

CHOREOGRAPHER CRYSTAL PITE

Canadian choreographer Crystal Pite is a former company member of Ballet British Columbia and William Forsythe's Ballett Frankfurt.

In a choreographic career spanning 35 years, Pite has created more than sixty works for companies such as The Royal Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theater, The Paris Opera Ballet, and the National Ballet of Canada. She is known for works that courageously address themes such as trauma, addiction, conflict, consciousness and mortality; her bold and original vision has earned her international acclaim and inspired an entire generation of dance artists.

She is an Associate Artist at three institutions: Nederlands Dans Theater, Sadler's Wells (London) and Canada's National Arts Centre. She holds an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Simon Fraser University and is a Member of the Order of Canada.

In 2002, she formed Kidd Pivot in Vancouver, a company that strives to distill and translate universal questions into artworks that connect us to essential parts of humanity. World-renowned for radical hybrids of dance and theatre, Kidd Pivot tours internationally with critically acclaimed works such as *Betroffenheit*, *Revisor*, and *Assembly Hall* (co-created with Jonathon Young), *The Tempest Replica*, *Dark Matters*, *Lost Action*, and *The You Show*.

Pite's many awards include the 2022 Governor General of Canada's Performing Arts Award, the 2011 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award and the Canada Council's 2012 Jacqueline Lemieux Prize. In 2017, she received the Benois de la Danse for her creation *The Seasons' Canon* at the Paris Opera Ballet. In 2018, she received the Grand Prix de la danse de Montréal. She is the recipient of five Sir Laurence Olivier awards for creations with Kidd Pivot and The Royal Ballet.



Photo: Anoush Abrar

FRONTIER STUDIO TRAILER



***PASSING* / Johan Inger**

Choreography: Johan Inger

Choreographic Assistants: Yvan Dubreuil, Carolina Armenta, Fernando Hernando Magadan

Music: Amos Ben-Tal, Eric Enocksson, Louis T. Hardin

Lighting Design: Alan Brodie

Costume Design: Linda Chow

Stage Design: Johan Inger

World Premiere May 2023, Ballet BC

*Photo: Ballet BC dancer Michael Garcia and artists of Ballet BC.
Photo by Michael Slobodian*

In the unstoppable flow of birth, aging and death, *PASSING* seeks the fragile moment when the sensitive, vulnerable and intimate aspects that make every individual trajectory unique dissolve and the group emerges. Dynamics and potential floating between the self, the other, the us or the them! The choreography searches through traditions and heritage to explore the unanswered question: where will the unconscious, the fast-paced and the self-created lead our communities to?



CHOREOGRAPHER JOHAN INGER



Photo: Bengt Wanselius

Johan Inger (Stockholm, 1967) completed his dance training at the Royal Swedish Ballet School and at the National Ballet School in Canada. From 1985 to 1990 he danced with the Swedish Royal Ballet in Stockholm, the last year performing as a soloist. Fascinated by the works of Jiri Kylián, Inger was convinced that a next step in his dance career should take him to Nederlands Dans Theater. In 1990, he joined NDT 1 and was a high-profile dancer in the company until 2002. After four workshop pieces, Inger produced his first creation in 1995 for NDT 2. The resulting *Mellantid* marked his official debut as a choreographer. It was part of the Holland Dance Festival and was immediately a resounding success. As a result, he was awarded the Philip Morris Finest Selection Award 1996 in the Contemporary Dance category and received a Laurence Olivier nomination for Best New Dance Production.

Since his debut, Inger has made various works for Nederlands Dans Theater (like *Sammanfall*, *Couple of Moments*, *Round Corners*, *Walking Mad*, *Out of Breath*). For his ballets *Dream Play* and *Walking Mad*, he received the Lucas Hoving Production Award in October 2001.

Inger left Nederlands Dans Theater to take on the artistic leadership of Cullberg Ballet in Stockholm in 2003. Over the years, he created various choreographies for the company. In 2008, Inger ended his artistic directorship so as to devote himself entirely to choreography. Between 2009 and 2016, Johan Inger held the position as Associate Choreographer with Nederlands Dans Theater, creating for both companies (NDT 1 + NDT 2) regularly, while continuing to collaborate and create with other companies.

Beginning in the 2022/23 season, Johan Inger became the artistic director of Take Off Dance, a training program for pre-professional dancers between the ages of 18 and 24 based in Seville, Spain.

PASSING STUDIO TRAILER



SHOW PROGRAMME & FURTHER LINKS

[Access the free show programme - LINK](#)

[Visit the UK tour website LINK](#)

[Watch behind the scenes footage and interviews LINK](#)

[Interview with Medhi Walerski in Dance Art Journal - LINK](#)

[Q&A with Medhi Walerski in Quintessential - LINK](#)

*Photo: Artists of Ballet BC in PASSING by Johan Inger.
Photo by Michael Slobodian*



UK TOUR DATES 2025

Sadler's Wells London	book now	Tue 20 - Wed 21 May 2025
Festival Theatre Edinburgh	book now	Fri 23 - Sat 24 May 2025
Theatre Royal Newcastle	book now	Tue 27 - Wed 28 May 2025
Wycombe Swan Theatre	book now	Sat 31 May 2025
Theatre Royal Plymouth	book now	Tue 3 - Wed 4 Jun 2025
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre	book now	Fri 6 - Sat 7 Jun 2025
Theatre Royal Norwich	book now	Tue 10 - Wed 11 Jun 2025

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

Dance Consortium tours offer enriching learning and engagement activities for schools, community groups and dance enthusiasts. Access to world-class international dance across the UK is at the heart of what we do. Fun and inclusive open workshops bring theatre foyers to life and on-stage masterclasses see the next generation of dancers learning from international performers.

Workshops - Ballet BC artists teach dance workshops and masterclasses for schools and community groups, giving participants a unique opportunity to learn from world-class performers.

Open Rehearsals - Go behind the scenes to observe the dedication and discipline of performers as they prepare for an evening performance.

Post-show Q&As - Put your questions to Medhi Walewski and company members. Hear about the inspirations, challenges and adventures behind presenting the show. Opening night at each venue.

Talent Development - Working in partnership with Rambert School, the Ballet BC UK tour is providing performance opportunity for four students performing in Crystal Pite's *Frontier*. Commitment to supporting the next generation of dance artists and the wider theatre workforce is a year-round commitment of Dance Consortium. Other projects include [Future Leaders](#) and [The Ailey Project](#).

To find out more visit - <https://danceconsortium.com/learning/>
or email: meg.saunders@danceconsortium.com

Ballet BC dancers Pei Lun La and Luca Afflitto. Photo by Millissa Martin



ABOUT DANCE CONSORTIUM

Dance Consortium is a group of 23 large theatres located across the UK and Ireland.

With a shared passion for engaging people with contemporary dance from different parts of the world, the theatres work together to find dance companies and productions that will excite, challenge, inspire and entertain their audiences. Since its formation in 2000, Dance Consortium has presented 54 tours by 30 different companies, whose performances and education activities have been experienced by hundreds of thousands of people across the UK.

For a full list of venues visit: danceconsortium.com/venues

For further information visit www.danceconsortium.com

Get in touch admin@danceconsortium.com

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“Mind-blowing!”
LondonTheatre1

“Circus and dance-fuelled adrenaline rush!”
Metro

19 – 20 SEP CANTERBURY Marlowe Theatre	3 – 4 OCT WOLVERHAMPTON Grand Theatre
23 – 24 SEP SOUTHAMPTON Mayflower Theatre	10 – 11 OCT MILTON KEYNES Theatre
26 – 27 SEP HIGH WYCOMBE Wycombe Swan	14 – 15 OCT BRADFORD Alhambra Theatre
30 SEP – 1 OCT CARDIFF Wales Millennium Centre	17 – 18 OCT HULL New Theatre

danceconsortium.com

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND