



**The Annenberg Center Presents
World Premiere of Site-Specific Work
by Matthew Neenan, May 27**

(Philadelphia – May 12, 2020) — The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents its last livestream of the season featuring the **world premiere** of *re-entering* by choreographer **Matthew Neenan, Thursday, May 27 at 7 PM**. This live event will be streamed online for a remote audience. Visit AnnenbergCenter.org for more information.

Choreographer in Residence at Pennsylvania Ballet as well as the co-founder of BalletX, Neenan has created a site-specific work, with *re-entering* taking place in spaces throughout the Annenberg Center, eventually culminating on the stage of the Harold Prince Theatre. Dancers are **Telmo Moreira, Caili Quan, Sarah-Gabrielle Ryan, and Michael Trusnovec**.

Neenan says about the program: “The work *re-entering* centers on the four dancers reexamining their being as we begin to encounter life as it once was. As artists, we have been put at a halt and have had to search for variant ways to keep existing in a world without live theater performance. We have been isolated, and now, we are re-exploring who we were before with a whole new set of eyes.”

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Matthew Neenan (Choreographer)

Matthew Neenan began his dance training at the Boston Ballet School and with noted teachers Nan C. Keating and Jacqueline Cronsberg. He later attended LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts and the School of American Ballet in New York. From 1994-2007, Neenan danced with the Pennsylvania Ballet where he danced numerous principal roles in the classical, contemporary and Balanchine repertoire. In October 2007, he was named Choreographer in Residence at the Pennsylvania Ballet where he has created 19 ballets.

Neenan’s choreography has been featured and performed by New York City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, The Washington Ballet, Ballet West, BalletMet, Colorado Ballet, Ballet Memphis, Milwaukee Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Tulsa Ballet, Oklahoma City Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Juilliard Dance and USC Kaufman School of Dance, among many others. He has received numerous awards and grants for his choreography from the National Endowment for the Arts, Dance Advance funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation and the Independence Foundation. In 2006, Neenan received the New York Choreographic Institute’s Fellowship Initiative Award. In 2008, he received a fellowship from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), marking his fourth time receiving the PCA fellowship. In October 2009, Neenan was the grand-prize winner of The Sacramento Ballet’s Capital Choreography Competition and was also the first recipient of the Jerome Robbins NEW Program Fellowship for his work *At the border* for Pennsylvania Ballet.

In 2005, Neenan co-founded BalletX with fellow dancer Christine Cox. BalletX had its world premiere at the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival in September 2005 and is now the resident dance company at the prestigious Wilma Theater. BalletX has toured and performed Neenan’s choreography in New York City at The Joyce Theater, NY City Center, NYU Skirball Center, Symphony Space, Central Park SummerStage, Vail Dance Festival (where he has had five world premieres), Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Los Cerritos Center, Laguna Dance Festival and Emerson SPRING TO DANCE® Festival, as

well as internationally in Cali, Colombia, Seoul, Korea and Belgrade, Serbia. His ballet *The Last Glass* made *The New York Times*' top 10 in 2013.

Telmo Moreira (Dancer)

Telmo Moreira began his training at The National Conservatory Dance School in Lisbon, Portugal. After receiving one of the top prizes at the 2007 Prix de Lausanne competition, he received a scholarship to complete his studies at the Vaganova Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he had the opportunity to perform a pas de deux for the Flower Festival at the Mariinsky Theatre. Moreira has also received the Outstanding European Dancer award at the Youth American Grand Prix (YAGP) finals and the Judges' Prize at the 2008 Varna International Ballet Competition (IBC). He was a finalist at the 2008 Beijing International Ballet Competition and a 2014 semifinalist in the USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi.

After competing in the Prix de Lausanne for the second time, Moreira received the apprenticeship award and chose to join American Ballet Theatre's second company, where he danced works by Jerome Robbins, George Balanchine and Edwaard Liang. Moreira has been invited to participate in international galas including YAGP Japan's gala. He joined Orlando Ballet in 2011 where he danced numerous leading roles as well as works by Jessica Lang, Peter Chu, Abdur-Rahim Jackson, Robert Hill, George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins. During his time with the company, Moreira had the opportunity to choreograph his own ballets and created *Barco Negro* (2014), *Unsaid* (2015) and *Same Old Fear* (2016). He also created his own production of *Firebird* for Florida Ballet. In 2016, he won best choreography at the YAGP regionals in Tampa. In September 2017, Moreira became a full-time faculty member with The Rock School for Dance Education.

Caili Quan (Dancer)

Caili Quan was raised on Guam, trained in New York and was a dancer with BalletX from 2013-2020. In 2020, Quan virtually choreographed dance films for BalletX (*Love Letter*), Owen/Cox Dance Group and UC Santa Barbara in addition to choreographing and editing *100 Days*, a virtual commission for the Guggenheim's Works & Process. She recently served as an Artistic Partnership Initiative Fellow and Toulmin Creator at The Center for Ballet and the Arts at NYU. Quan has also choreographed for Columbia Ballet Collaborative, konverjdans, DanceWorks Chicago's ChoreoLab, CelloPointe and St. Paul's School.

While with BalletX, Quan performed new works by Matthew Neenan, Nicolo Fonte, Gabrielle Lamb, Penny Saunders and Trey McIntyre. She danced at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Vail Dance Festival, Central Park SummerStage, Belgrade Dance Festival, The Joyce Theater and in *DEMO* by Damian Woetzel at the Kennedy Center. Her duet, *Fancy Me*, was performed at the Vail Dance Festival in 2018 and she was an adjunct instructor of ballet at DeSales University in fall 2020. With the help of Elliot deBruyn and Nathaniel Brown, she created *Mahâlang*, a short documentary that wove familial conversations of her Chamorro Filipino upbringing on Guam with scenes from *Love Letter*. *Mahâlang* was accepted into the Center of Asian American Media Festival (CAAMFest 2021).

Sarah-Gabrielle Ryan

Sarah-Gabrielle Ryan is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She studied on scholarship at The Rock School for Dance Education, Metropolitan Ballet Academy and the School of Pennsylvania Ballet, and she attended summer courses at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Ellison Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, the School of American Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet School. Ryan joined Pennsylvania Ballet II in 2014 and joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as an apprentice in 2016, where she was promoted to corps de ballet in 2017. While at Pacific Northwest Ballet, Ryan performed featured roles in productions by George Balanchine, Donald Byrd, Alejandro Cerrudo, Kyle Davis, David Dawson, Alexander Ekman, William Forsythe, Matthew Neenan, Noelani Pantastico, Crystal Pite, Jerome Robbins and Kent Stowell.

Ryan performed in the corps de ballet of Balanchine's *Diamonds* for the PBS broadcast of *Pennsylvania Ballet at 50*. She was named in *Dance Magazine*'s "On the Rise" in 2018 and was most recently the March/April 2021 cover star of *Pointe Magazine*.

Michael Trusnovec (Dancer)

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “one of the world’s most luminous dancers,” Michael Trusnovec grew up dancing on Long Island, where he graduated from the Long Island High School for the Performing Arts. He earned a BFA in dance performance from Southern Methodist University.

For over two decades, Trusnovec was a principal dancer with the Paul Taylor Dance Company, creating over 25 roles and appearing in more than 70 dances choreographed by Taylor. He premiered new works by Larry Keigwin, Doug Elkins, Doug Varone, Lila York, Margie Gillis and Pam Tanowitz, and was featured in the company’s presentation of Martha Graham’s *Diversion of Angels*. Additionally, Trusnovec was the company’s Associate Rehearsal Director and was featured in the 2004 PBS Great Performances episode, *Dance in America: Acts of Ardor: Two Dances by Paul Taylor*, and again in 2013 for *Paul Taylor Dance Company in Paris*. He continues to serve as the Director of Worldwide Licensing and as a repetiteur of Taylor’s dances.

Among his honors are a 2018 *Dance Magazine* award, the Positano Premio La Danza Dancer of the Year for 2016, a 2006 Bessie Award, and in 1992, he was a YoungArts awardee and Presidential Scholar in the Arts. Trusnovec serves on the Board of Directors of Dance Films Association and he is a co-curator for the 2020 Dance on Camera Festival at Lincoln Center. He is a national reviewer and dance mentor for YoungArts as well as a co-founder of the Asbury Park Dance Festival. Trusnovec most recently performed Molissa Fenley’s *State of Darkness* at The Joyce Theater, and appeared with New York City Ballet’s Winter 2020 Lincoln Center performances of George Balanchine’s *Episodes*.

About the Annenberg Center’s 2020-21 Digital Season

The Annenberg Center’s 2021 spring digital season comprises livestreamed performances featuring world premieres and Philadelphia debuts by top dance companies and outstanding jazz artists, collaborative music performances, and screenings of independent films. Designed specifically for the digital stage, the live performances are broadcast using state-of-the-art digital technology from the Prince or Zellerbach Theatre, integrating live chat, and concluding with interactive discussions with the creators and performers. Livestreamed performances are available online for 48 hours after the start time for those who purchased access.

About the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts serves as a major cultural destination and crossroads connecting the University of Pennsylvania and the Greater Philadelphia region through innovative human expression in theatre, music, dance and film, serving an annual audience of over 80,000. The Annenberg Center also serves as a key resource for the arts at Penn, connecting master artists with Penn students in support of and as an enhancement to the arts curriculum. Student performing arts groups are also key users of the Annenberg Center’s multiple performance and rehearsal spaces, while also staffing many operational roles throughout the academic year. In reflection of Penn’s core values as a world-respected academic institution, the Annenberg Center emphasizes artistic and intellectual excellence, diversity and rigor in its presentations; prioritizes broad inclusiveness in the artists, audiences and groups it serves; manages outstanding performance, conference and meeting facilities; and stresses comprehensive event planning, production support and customer service. The Annenberg Center is a major provider of performing arts access for school children and actively engages a broad range of primary, secondary and post-secondary student audiences and inclusive constituencies from the campus, community and surrounding region. Visit AnnenbergCenter.org.

CALENDAR LISTING

LIVESTREAM

Matthew Neenan

Thursday, May 27, 7 PM

Choreographer Matthew Neenan

The Annenberg Center Presents Matthew Neenan

Dancers Telmo Moreira, Caili Quan, Sarah-Gabrielle Ryan, Michael Trusnovac

Called “fresh, touching, musical, original,” Matthew Neenan’s choreography makes “dancers look vulnerable, openhearted and, above all, marvelously free.” (*The New York Times*) A former principal dancer and now Choreographer in Residence at Pennsylvania Ballet as well as the co-founder of BalletX, Neenan brings *re-entering*, a site-specific world premiere exploring our return to life as it once was, promising the “wonderful immediacy and vibrancy” (*Dance Magazine*) for which he’s known.

This is an original, live event, performed on the Annenberg Center stage and streamed online.

Visit AnnenbergCenter.org for more information.

Access Information for Matthew Neenan

Visit AnnenbergCenter.org to purchase access to this show until 7:30 PM on May 27. The performance may be watched live at 7 PM on May 27 to participate in the chat. It will be available on-demand to ticketholders through May 29.

Visit the Annenberg Center’s [FAQs](#) for additional details.

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