

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 3, 2024

**Ballet Kelowna Reprises First Commissioned Full-Length Work with
Gripping Adaptation of Shakespeare Tragedy
– Macbeth –**

***Back by popular demand, Canadian dance luminary Alysa Pires returns with
suspenseful and spectacular re-envisioning of Shakespeare classic***

Kelowna, BC – Ballet Kelowna closes its 2023/24 *Season of Drama* with the highly anticipated return of *Macbeth*, the Company's first commissioned, full-length ballet, at the **Kelowna Community Theatre** on **May 3 + 4, 2024 at 7:30pm**. Premiered in May 2022, this visceral production is choreographed by Canadian rising star **Alysa Pires**, and features an original score by award-winning composer **Adam Sakiyama** along with atmospheric multimedia visuals from Okanagan landscape artist **Jane Everett**. Guest artist **Jake Poloz** will make his debut as Macbeth while senior artist **Desiree Bortolussi** is set to reprise her role as Lady Macbeth.

"We are thrilled to close Ballet Kelowna's *Season of Drama* with the return of Alysa Pires' *Macbeth*, which not only represents the most ambitious project in Ballet Kelowna's 21-year history, but also one of the most enthusiastically praised works in our repertoire," says **Simone Orlando**, Artistic Director and CEO of Ballet Kelowna. "As one of the first ballet companies to embrace Alysa's incomparable talent through the commissioning of *MAMBO* in 2018, we are incredibly proud to see Alysa's choreographic career continue to skyrocket – most recently as the first Canadian woman to create a work for New York City Ballet, in 2023. What a gift for Kelowna audiences to have Alysa join us for the remount of *Macbeth* this spring, back by popular demand!"

With its themes of ambition, power and corruption, *Macbeth's* renowned tragedy has remained relevant throughout time. Considered one of Shakespeare's best-loved plays, *Macbeth* follows the story of the titular character, a brave soldier and powerful man whose heady ambitions to Scotland's throne turn him into a callous, yet tortured, murderer, spurred on by his equally determined wife, Lady Macbeth. As Macbeth and Lady Macbeth become hopelessly entangled by their atrocities, the pair descend into madness.

Praised for her "clarity and consistency in aesthetic" (*The Globe and Mail*), Pires brings her signature athleticism and theatricality to this contemporary retelling of *Macbeth*, exploring the dark side of human nature. Featuring Ballet Kelowna's full Company of dancers, the demanding two-act ballet will showcase Ballet Kelowna's full breadth of technical and artistic prowess, featuring complex pointe work,

unconventional groupings, and cinematic staging, bringing the multilayered Shakespearean work to life through deeply expressive movement.

Pires' works have been presented by Ballet Kelowna numerous times, including *MAMBO* and *In Between* in 2018, *Spring* in 2019, and *Macbeth* in 2022. A sought-after contemporary choreographer and Artistic Director of Alysia Pires Dance Projects, Pires' works have been performed by companies such as New York City Ballet, The National Ballet of Canada, Alberta Ballet and Ballet Edmonton.

A thrilling mix of dance, music, and spectacle, *Macbeth* features a haunting, original score by award-winning composer Adam Sakiyama, whose recent composition credits include *Divorce Lunch* (Musical Stage Company) and *Quench* (Axon Interactive). *Macbeth's* aesthetics will be further enhanced through ethereal digital backdrops created by Okanagan-based landscape artist Jane Everett, whose solo exhibitions include *Understory* at the Kelowna Art Gallery and *Birch* at Bugera Matheson Gallery in Edmonton.

Tickets and information at balletkelowna.ca

Ballet Kelowna's 2023/2024 season is presented by the Thomas Alan Budd Foundation.

About Ballet Kelowna (balletkelowna.ca)

Founded in 2002, Ballet Kelowna is the sole professional dance company in B.C.'s Interior. The organization is committed to its role as a leader in the region through encouraging, promoting, and developing Canadian dancers and choreographers. The Company performs annually for more than 12,000 audience members in Kelowna and on tour, and provides unique dance training opportunities and outreach programs. Its Artistic Director and CEO, Simone Orlando, is an award-winning choreographer and former dancer with Ballet BC and The National Ballet of Canada.

LISTING INFORMATION

Ballet Kelowna presents *Macbeth*

Dates: May 3 + 4, 2024

Time: 7:30pm

Tickets: Kelowna Community Theatre
Phone: 250-469-8940
Online: theatre.kelowna.ca
In Person: 1375 Water Street, Kelowna, BC

Ticket Prices: From \$61.70 (Adult), \$52.35 (Senior), \$34.35 (Student/Child)

Performance Venue: Kelowna Community Theatre
1375 Water Street, Kelowna, BC

Website: balletkelowna.ca

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