



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vancouver's Own Joshua Beamish/MOVETHECOMPANY Marks Two Decades of Visionary Dance with Star-Studded 20th Anniversary Gala

Mixed program features ballet superstars from San Francisco Ballet, The National Ballet of Canada, American Ballet Theatre, Ballet Edmonton & Royal Winnipeg Ballet

Vancouver, BC — Joshua Beamish/MOVETHECOMPANY celebrates 20 years of choreographic innovation with a dazzling, two-night-only **20th Anniversary Gala** at the **Vancouver Playhouse** on **May 29 & 30, 2025**. Featuring five captivating pieces – from a playful, Beach Boys-inspired ballet to the jazz-infused tonality of John Adams and more – the evocative mixed program is a virtuosic journey through the company's evolution over the past two decades. The diverse retrospective will showcase a line-up of some of North America's finest artists from **San Francisco Ballet, The National Ballet of Canada, American Ballet Theatre, Ballet Edmonton, Royal Winnipeg Ballet**, as well as former artists from **Ballet BC**.

"When I reflect upon 20 years of creation with MOVETHECOMPANY, I feel immensely grateful for the inspiring and exceptionally talented artists I've been privileged to work with," says company founder, artistic director, and choreographer Joshua Beamish. "I'm thrilled to mark this major milestone by welcoming a phenomenal group of performers from ballet companies across Canada and North America – some of them my closest friends and dear colleagues and others I have been dreaming of working with – to breathe new life into the five compelling works that represent some of my favourite choreographic creations over the past two decades. I can't wait for Vancouver audiences to experience their brilliance in this celebratory homecoming production."

The 20th Anniversary Gala will open with an excerpt from **Trap Door Party**, which returns to Vancouver for the first time since 2010, featuring original cast member – and one of Vancouver's most beloved performers – **Amber Barton**. The iconic work from 2007 solidified Beamish as "one of Canada's most promising choreographers" (*The Globe and Mail*) and is one of the company's most widely toured productions. Painting a dystopian picture of conformity, **Trap Door Party** will also feature dancers **Ariana Barr** (former Ballet Edmonton artist), **Juan Daurte** and **Justin Rapaport** (former Ballet BC artists), **Calder White**, and **Kirsten Wicklund** (former Ballet BC artist and current Artistic Director, Ballet Edmonton).

In addition to the remount of **Trap Door Party**, the program will showcase four Vancouver premieres. **Lollapalooza** is Beamish's first work for The National Ballet of Canada, which premiered at the company's Mad Hot Gala in 2018. A playful, bombastic tribute to ballet's athleticism, set to John Adams' dynamic composition of the same name, original cast member **Harrison James** (Principal Dancer, The National Ballet of Canada and San Francisco Ballet) will perform alongside Vancouver-raised ballerina **Frances Chung** (Principal Dancer, San Francisco Ballet), who trained at the Goh Ballet Academy.

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Originally created in 2011 for New York's Joyce Soho Theatre, **Marcato** explores shifting power dynamics between five male dancers, as the arrival of an outsider upsets the established hierarchy. Featuring "sharp articulation, accents that hit and run," (*The New Yorker*), **Marcato** will feature dancers **Julian Hunt** (current Kidd Pivot apprentice), **Jordan Lang** (former Ballet BC artist), and **Diego Ramalho** (current Ballet Edmonton artist), as well as Duarte and Rapaport.

A "sensual, meditative" (*The New York Times*) duet, the Vancouver premiere of **STAY** will also feature James, in duet with **Stephanie Petersen** (former American Ballet Theatre artist), who originated the role with MOVETHECOMPANY in 2015. Commissioned by Dancers Responding to AIDS' Fire Island Dance Festival, the work follows the uncertain future of a relationship suspended in space and time.

The program will conclude with one of Beamish's latest creations, **Endless Summer**, which premiered at New York's Gerald W. Lynch Theater in 2022. Set to the sun-drenched sounds of The Beach Boys, this celebration of idyllic summer gradually reveals the longings and desires hidden beneath peace, love, and rock 'n roll. The Vancouver premiere of **Endless Summer** will be newly reworked for a larger ensemble featuring Barr, Duarte, Hunt, James, Lang, Petersen, Ramalho, Rapaport, and Wicklund, as well as Ballet Edmonton's **Paula Cobo Botello** and Royal Winnipeg Ballet's **Kyra Soo**, who was raised in Port Coquitlam and trained at the Goh Ballet Academy.

Born and raised in Kelowna, Beamish adopted Vancouver as his hometown after moving to the city for his last year of dance training with The Source Dance Company and Pacific DanceArts in 2004. Determined to carve out an unconventional path for himself within the dance world, Beamish founded MOVETHECOMPANY in 2005, at the age of just 17. Over the past 20 years, his works have toured throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, and have included commissions from The Royal Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, Vancouver Opera, Cape Town Opera, New York Choreographic Institute, Compania Nacional de Danza de Mexico and Toronto Dance Theatre, among others.

In celebration of MOVETHECOMPANY's 20th Anniversary Gala, Beamish has partnered with Goh Ballet to offer two special master classes taught by Principal Dancer Frances Chung on Sunday, May 25.

For tickets, further information, and to register for the master class, visit joshuabeamish.com

About Joshua Beamish/MOVETHECOMPANY (joshuabeamish.com)

Joshua Beamish/MOVETHECOMPANY is a non-profit charitable dance organization registered in Canada and America. The primary mandate of the society is to further the awareness of, and appreciation for, contemporary dance at the local, provincial, national and international levels. The company places equal focus on educational programming, primarily targeting youth, and the creation and professional theatrical productions.

Founded in Vancouver in 2005 by current Artistic Director Beamish, Joshua Beamish/MOVETHECOMPANY quickly emerged as one of Western Canada's most prolific dance companies. The company has performed at venues like London's The Place, Cape Town's Baxter Dance Festival, Montreal's Tangente, Usine C and Studio 303, the American Dance Institute in DC, Singapore's Odyssey Dance Theatre, the International Ballet Festival in Miami, and the Quinzena de Danca Festival in Portugal.

At home, the company has been presented by the Made in BC: Dance On Tour Program, The Dance Centre, the Vancouver International Dance Festival, Dancing on the Edge, the Chutzpah Festival and others.

Joshua Beamish/MOVETHECOMPANY received the distinction of a commission from the Canadian Embassy in Washington DC, as well as the only choreographic residency ever awarded to a Western Canadian company by the Djerassi Program in San Francisco. The company was selected by curators Cirque du Soleil for presentation at World Expo 2010 in Shanghai, performed the Closing Gala of the Canadian Cultural Pavilion and toured an ensemble of 24 Vancouver-based artists for a commissioned presentation at Bangkok International Festival for Dance & Music/Bangkok Opera House.

The company also toured as the Canadian representatives at World Event Young Artist, a satellite of the 2012 London Cultural Olympiad. Joshua Beamish/MOVETHECOMPANY made its The Joyce Theatre debut in New York as the opening event of the 2015 Ballet Festival and returned in 2018 for the world premiere of *The Masque of the Red Death*, commissioned by the venue. In 2019, the company presented the world premiere of *@giselle* in Vancouver (a modernized and technology-driven interpretation of the beloved ballet *Giselle*), followed by the world premiere of *Source Amnesia* in 2023, which explored false memory and the fragility of truth.

LISTING INFORMATION

Joshua Beamish/MOVETHECOMPANY presents 20th Anniversary Gala

Dates:	May 29 & 30, 2025 at 7:30pm
Ticket Prices:	From \$44-\$99 Student group pricing \$19.75 (groups of 15+)
Address:	Vancouver Playhouse 600 Hamilton St, Vancouver
Box Office:	showpass.com/20th-anniversary-gala/
Website:	joshuabeamish.com

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For further media information, contact

Laura Murray | lmurray@mpmgarts.com | 604.418.2998
Angela Poon | apoon@mpmgarts.com | 604.569.5343

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