

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 13, 2024

## <u>DanceHouse Presents Vancouver Premiere of Côté Danse's</u> Striking Study of Universal Longing for Home in *X (Dix)*

Inspired by Odysseus' epic journey in Homer's The Odyssey, and conceived during the height of the pandemic, X (Dix) searches for the true meaning of home

**Vancouver, BC** — **DanceHouse** presents the Vancouver premiere of **Côté Danse's** virtuosic **X** (**Dix**), on stage **March 22 and 23, 2024** at **8pm** at the **Vancouver Playhouse**. Choreographed by Côté Danse Artistic Director and Principal Dancer with The National Ballet of Canada, Guillaume Côté, the striking work is a potent exploration of home as a grounding force. Inspired by the mythical Odysseus, *X* (*Dix*) makes remarkable use of the foundational materials of storytelling, employing archetypal ideas – from the hero's journey to the role of home – to create new narratives of life's journey and the elemental forces of leaving and returning.

"We are thrilled to present the DanceHouse debut of Guillaume Côté's newly formed dance collective, Côté Danse, with this staggeringly beautiful and deeply contemplative work that explores the idea of 'home' as a state of mind," says Jim Smith, Artistic and Executive Director of DanceHouse. "Conceived and choreographed throughout the pandemic, *X* (*Dix*) is an invigorating reflection of a singular moment in time, when home took on an even greater importance in our lives, as our source of stability, safety, and foundational identity. As travellers were summoned home, Odysseus' mythical longing for home took on even greater resonance."

The work received its world premiere in August 2021, as part of Quebec's Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur, the largest summer dance festival in the country, where Côté has served as Artistic Director since 2014. Informed by his classical ballet vocabulary, Côté's choreography strips back the art form to its most compelling basics, featuring sleek lines and refined athleticism, performed by five virtuosic dancers on a minimalist stage setting, accompanied by the surging and sculptural sounds of American experimental band Son Lux.

Hailed as "one of the finest male dancers in the world," by the *London Times*, Côté has been a Principal Dancer with The National Ballet of Canada since 2004, and a leading male figure of the company and in the dance world. With a keen interest in choreography, Côté has also served as Choreographic Associate with The National Ballet of Canada since 2013, creating eight works as part of the company's repertoire. He founded his eponymous company in 2021, with the mission of creating multidisciplinary works. Also in 2021, Côté was named Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Québec, the highest distinction awarded by the Quebec government.

Following its Vancouver premiere, X (Dix) will embark on a tour throughout B.C. and Ontario.

For tickets and further information, visit: dancehouse.ca

## About DanceHouse (dancehouse.ca)

DanceHouse connects Vancouver audiences and the local arts community to the international world of dance by presenting exceptional companies that are recognized for their excellence, innovation, and international reputation. Since 2008, DanceHouse has presented vibrant and inspiring companies from Canada and around the world. In addition to the performances on stage, DanceHouse offers a suite of engagement opportunities and a chance for the general public and local artistic community to engage with the presented artists and their work.

**LISTING INFORMATION** DanceHouse presents Côté Danse's *X (Dix)* 

Dates: March 22 + 23, 2024 at 8pm

Ticket Prices: From \$35

Address: Vancouver Playhouse

600 Hamilton St, Vancouver

Box Office: <u>dancehouse.ca</u> or call 604.801.6225

Website: dancehouse.ca

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