



For Immediate Release

QUÉBEC DANSE – 5th EDITION A LOVE AFFAIR WITH DANCE!

Montreal, April 7, 2016—Imagine an **International Dance Day** that is celebrated over an entire week! Don't miss this chance, offered by the **Regroupement québécois de la danse (RQD)** and various dance professionals, to choose from over **100 free activities**. From **April 24 to May 1**, the 5th edition of *Québec Danse* has planned a host of exciting events. **Dance courses, workshops, meetings, performances, films and exhibitions** are on the agenda in the regions of **Montreal, Quebec City, Chaudière-Appalaches, Eastern Townships, Lanaudière and Laval**. Events that will stimulate your senses, loosen up your body, and give you a sample of all that dance has to offer year-round. Plan your own program with the Dance Agenda at www.quebecdanse.org—the calendar for dance-lovers.

Three cities open their arms

On **April 25**, things get underway in **Montreal** in front of the **École supérieure de ballet du Québec**. Young dancers will undertake the **2016 Choreographic Trace**, a large-scale urban event that this year will celebrate the 50th anniversary of this flagship institution founded par Ludmilla Chiriaeff. The next day in **Sherbrooke**, young and old alike are invited to a whole day of workshops, culminating in short performances by ten dancers from the Eastern Townships, as part of **ICI DANSE**. Finally, on April 26, the dance community's **annual day of consensus-building** will take place in **Quebec City**, ending with the launch of videos promoting dance.

Artists extend their hands

Whether it be your first time inside a dance studio, outside in the sun, or in the magical darkness of a theatre, you will have some twenty opportunities to discover how dance is conceived, created and presented. Get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of *Anatomie d'un souffle* by **Le Carré des Lombes**, inspired by the Grand Orgue Pierre-Béique, to be presented next May by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and Danse Danse. Or get a backstage look at *Fin de série*, the latest creation of **Manon Oligny**, which will make its world premiere at the Festival TransAmérique. Enter the creative worlds of choreographers **Harold Rhéaume, Jane Mappin, Sarah Bild** and **Lin Snelling**; attend rehearsals by students of the **École de danse contemporaine de Montréal**, who will tackle choreographies by **Catherine Gaudet, Ginette Laurin, Deborah Dunn** and **Parts+Labour_Dance**. And to experience the full power of a live performance, don't miss **Édouard Lock's** latest work, making its Quebec debut at the Grand Théâtre de Québec and Théâtre Maisonneuve of Place des Arts, in a fabulous triple bill by the Brazilian company **São Paulo Companhia de Dança**, another initiative of Danse Danse. On tour in the Accès culture network are the virtuoso dancers of **BJM - Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal** in an electrifying program of five works, including one by Benjamin Millepied, the former artistic director of the Paris Opera Ballet. Finally, the dance companies **PPS Danse, 605 Collective** from Vancouver and **[ZØGMA] Collectif de folklore urbain** will all be presenting works—perhaps in a theatre near you? Consult the **Dance Agenda** to find out!

Dance classes to reinvigorate you

For children, teenagers, adults, families and those over 50, *Québec Danse* provides a golden opportunity to put on your loose-fitting—or tight-fitting—clothes! For the keenest enthusiasts, **Studio Bizz** opens its doors on May 1. From noon to 6 p.m., over twenty free classes will be offered in as many styles, and for all levels! In addition, the **Académie de danse d'Outremont** will not only welcome observers to its courses, but open up many of them to anyone who would like to give them a go, regardless of age. As introductions to three invigorating bodily approaches, the **Dance Department of the Université du Québec à Montréal** is offering workshops in somatic education, improvisation and rhythmic led by three seasoned instructors. It is also providing opportunities to learn **flamenco**, to exercise to **Latin dances**, **percussive dances** and **traditional Indian dance**. Finally, even **Montreal libraries** are getting in on the act! Discover their range of dance activities, designed primarily for young people, scheduled in several Boroughs.

Surprises in store

Let yourself be inspired by the dancers performing at the **Musée d'art de Joliette**, where you will be able to sketch them in full flight. Get a horizon-wide perspective when the **St-Jean-Port-Joli** quay is transformed into a giant dance floor. Admire the group of men and women aged 55 to 75 who are the presenting, at the **Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique**, the contemporary dance they discovered with **Carpe Diem/Emmanuel Jouthe**. In Quebec City, the artists of **Papillon blanc** will perform their gentle movements at the CHSLD community health centre. Inside a restaurant, come and witness the frenzy of *Schmuttland*, a one-of-a-kind performance by **Les Soeurs Schmutt**, a mix of video, dance, theatre and music. And at the **Eastern Bloc production centre**, dancers **Sonya Stefan** and **Jamie Wright** star in a fantastical show choreographed by **Dana Gingras**. Finally, on the evening of April 29, come and have a drink at the subversive event **So You Think That Was Dance!**, hosted by choreographer **Karen Fennell**, where the Théâtre Main Line stage will feature eight short performances—all unpredictable and uncensored!

Young students leading the way!

This year, two projects introducing young people to contemporary dance through interactions with choreographers invited to their schools, will be ending on April 29! At the invitation of RQD, **Estelle Clareton** created a short choreography and taught it to **110 elementary students** (and their teachers!), which will be performed in the Jean-Gascon Foyer of Théâtre Maisonneuve, thanks to Danse Danse. And choreographer **Isabelle Boulanger**, upon the invitation of **Tangente**, guided the creative efforts of dance students at the Lucien-Pagé secondary school. The results will be unveiled on April 29, along with an excerpt from the latest work of the dance troupe La Grande Fente, at the Espace culturel Georges-Émile-Lapalme of Place des Arts. And finally, during the entire week, **mini-B-Boys and B-Girls** from the Académie de danse d'Outremont will be touring the primary schools of their Borough.

Commemorating dance

Several activities will revive memories of various chapters in the history of Quebec dance. The inaugural exhibition of the new Cultural Centre of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, **Danser à Montréal: A Tribute to Iro Valaskakis-Tembeck**, recalls some of these historical milestones in this tribute to the distinguished dance artist and historian. At this same venue, the Regroupement québécois de la danse is presenting the third edition of **La Toile-mémoire de la danse au Québec [1895-2000]**. In addition, **Danse Cadence** is offering

a lecture-workshop on Renaissance dance in New France. And at **EspaceTrad**, musicians and dancers of the jig will present an evening of traditional Quebec dance.

On giant screens at the Maison de la culture Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, the 15th anniversary of **Mouvement Perpétuel**, the production house founded by Marlene Millar and Philip Szporer, will be celebrated with screenings of their finest **dance videos**. In addition, the **ONF à la maison** series is presenting within the Accès culture network Paule Baillargeon's beautiful film *Le petit Jean-Pierre, le grand Perreault*, which recounts the trajectory and final stages of the choreographer's career before his death in 2002. Finally, Montreal libraries will be displaying their **documentary collections on dance**, a great way to discover dance in book or digital form!

Over 100 activities have been planned for the *Québec Danse* event. You can find them in the Dance Agenda or list of **thematic series**. From April 24 to May 1, join in the fun and catch the contagious energy of dance! Follow the event on Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag #QD16.

Regroupement québécois de la danse

The RQD brings together over 500 dance professionals, promoting their interests in the public and political spheres. Founded in 1984 with a view to giving Quebec dance a unified voice, the RQD has over the years played a leading role in organizing formative projects for the discipline. Its initiatives are designed to raise the profile of dance in all its forms, to enhance its visibility throughout Quebec and to build bridges between professionals, novices and dance enthusiasts.

The RQD is pleased to schedule this 5th edition of *Québec Danse* during National Dance Week, a project of l'Assemblée canadienne de la danse/Canadian Dance Assembly (ACD-CDA).

Acknowledgments

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Source:

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