



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

PAS DE DANSE, PAS DE VIE ! 2008 **Join in the fun from April 22 to 27!**

Montreal, April 15, 2008 – From April 22 to 27, 2008, the Regroupement québécois de la danse (RQD) will be offering all sorts of opportunities to discover the myriad pleasures of dance. Prima ballerina **Anik Bissonnette**, president of the RQD, is the spokesperson for this fourth edition of *Pas de danse, pas de vie!* which will be pulling out all the stops for six days of dancertainment. *Pas de danse, pas de vie!* 2008 relies on the contributions of more than 200 volunteers, including many young up-and-coming dancers who share a desire to spread their infectious passion for dance by presenting it in a wide variety of forms. *Pas de danse, pas de vie!* invites Montrealers of all stripes to take part in an event that is playful, poetic and electric, an occasion to thrill to the sheer pleasure of dancing, watching dancers and discovering one's inner dancer.

Off on the Right Foot

Everyone is invited to kick up their heels on Tuesday, April 22 with the spring ritual of **Traces chorégraphiques**, where squads of young dancers paint dance steps on the sidewalks of Montreal. This year there will be 26 *Traces chorégraphiques* dance steps signed by 26 choreographers. They act as a friendly reminder to passersby and to elected officials that dance plays a key role in the life of the city. One of these painted dance steps, created for this fourth edition by choreographer **Marie Chouinard**, is dedicated to teachers who introduce primary and high school students to the pleasures of dance. Her dance step will also be found in many institutions that focus on bringing dance into their schools, highlighting the essential contribution of schools and teachers in training the artists and audiences of tomorrow.

Dancing up a Storm

More than 50 free dance classes will be held **from Thursday, April 24 to Saturday, April 26** in some twenty different venues. From ballet to hip-hop by way of yoga-dance, acrobatics and Latin, Asian, contemporary and African dance, not to mention house, jazz and creative dance, there is something for everyone, for all tastes and all ages. Even babies aged 18 to 24 months are invited to discover the joys of movement! The **La 2^e Porte à Gauche** collective is proposing an extraordinary adventure entitled **7 ½ à part**. During two presentations each evening (7 and 9 p.m.), choreographers **Emmanuel Jouthe**, **Les Sœurs Schmutt**, **Erin Flynn**, **Julie Châteauvert**, **Marie Béland** and **Léna Massiani** will be using an apartment in Plateau Mont-Royal as the site for a dance piece performed by the roommates sharing the space. Reservations can be made at appart@la2eporteagauche.ca.

Backstage

Opportunities to step into the wings will be on hand on **April 25 and 26** at a number of **open houses, lectures** and **public rehearsals**. On Friday, choreographer **Hélène Blackburn**, of the *Cas public* dance company, will be welcoming people to Studio E at Place des Arts for a run-through of *Barbe Bleue*, a classic much loved by young audiences. Choreographer **Danièle Desnoyers**, of *Carré des Lombes*, is offering a public rehearsal of her new

work-in-progress in the Jean-Pierre-Perreault building at the Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique. On Friday evening at Studio Danse Montréal, fans of oriental and urban dance are invited to attend two workshop lectures. On Saturday morning, the **École supérieure de ballet contemporain de Montréal** will reveal to Montrealers the treasures of its dance library, while at Studios Swing Connexion two swing dance champions will present a vigorous demonstration.

Dance Squatters

In light of last year's successful **SquatDanse à la Place des Arts**, the RQD will be featuring it once again on **Sunday, April 27 from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, with all sort of treats on the menu. Put together by more than 125 dancers and performers, including an impressive delegation of young artists who are as diverse as they are dynamic, SquatDanse will take over by gentle force the mythical realm of Théâtre Maisonneuve, including its stage, backstage, hallways and inner sanctums. Videodance, performances, excerpts of choreographies, improvisations and an improv movement match are all part of the program, featuring artists such as **Zab Mabougou, Lucie Carmen Grégoire, Aurélie Pedron, Caroline Dubois, Maria Kefirova, Florence Figols, Ismaël Mouaraki, Andrew Tay** and **Collectif BBT**. There will also be a performance/installation in the orchestra pit, a public rehearsal in the shower room, street dancing backstage and in the freight elevator, and a joyous invasion of the wings by the merry band of **Silvy Panet-Raymond** and dance artists **Karine Cloutier, Sarah Wendt, Lin Snelling** and **Clara Furey**. Ongoing dance improvs will be presented on the Esplanade at Place des Arts by the **Grasshoppa Dance Exchange** and the **Ionic Space** collective. As a rousing end to this multi-faceted dance journey, artists and audience will get up on the stage of Théâtre Maisonneuve for a dynamic line dance directed by choreographer **Hélène Blackburn**, assisted by **Simon Ampleman**.

Throughout the duration of this event, the **Grande Bibliothèque** will be showcasing a **selection of books on dance**. For more information about the Montreal activities in *Pas de danse, pas de vie !*, visit the RQD website at www.quebecdanse.org or call 514-849-4003. The official brochure of the event is also available in many cultural institutions throughout the city.

Elsewhere in Quebec, activities initiated by artists, dance organizations and presenters under the *Pas de danse, pas de vie !* banner are listed on the RQD website at www.quebecdanse.org.

Regroupement québécois de la danse

Founded in 1984, the Regroupement québécois de la danse is a non-profit association of more than 500 members, all of them dance professionals (performers, teachers, choreographers, companies, presenters, professional schools and researchers). The RQD represents and defends the interests of these dance professionals in the public and political arenas at both the local and national levels. It is proud to promote the exceptional participation of dance artists in this new edition of *Pas de danse, pas de vie !* and wishes to thank all the partners who made it possible, in particular Place des Arts.

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