

**REGROUPEMENT
QUÉBÉCOIS DE
LA DANSE**



PRESENTATION BOOKLET



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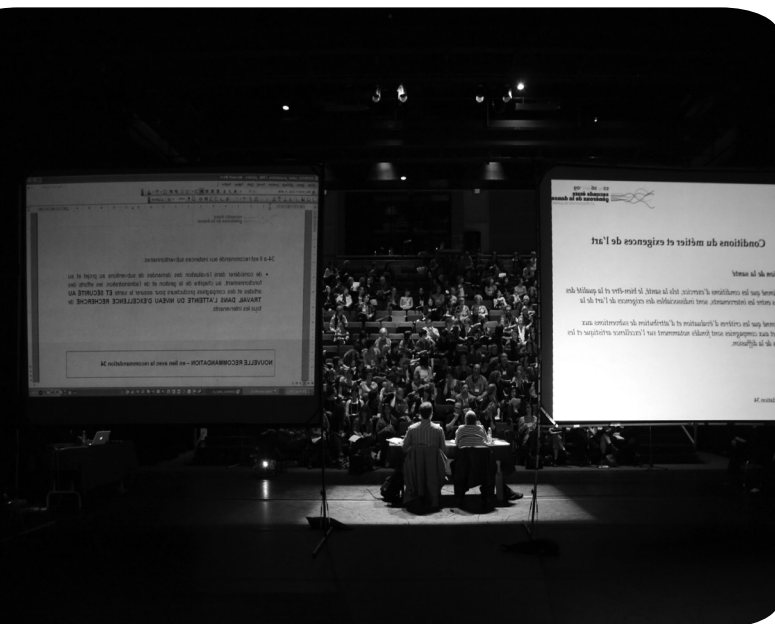


THE REGROUPEMENT QUÉBÉCOIS DE LA DANSE

The voice of the community



..... The “memory web” of dance in Québec



..... The second États généraux de la danse professionnelle du Québec

The Regroupement québécois de la danse (RQD) is a non-profit association, active at the municipal, provincial and federal levels, that represents and defends the interests of over 500 dance professionals. Founded in 1984 in response to the Québec dance community’s need for a common voice, the RQD represents all stakeholders in professional dance: performers, choreographers, teachers, researchers, rehearsal directors, cultural workers, specialized presenters, dance companies, professional dance schools and service organizations. This broad-based membership allows the RQD to play a leadership role in implementing long-term development projects for the entire discipline.

For 25 years, the RQD has developed the many facets of dance and has actively raised awareness of the conditions in which this demanding art is practised. Closely involved with the evolution of a discipline that has reached a turning point in its history, the RQD initiates and supports all projects promoting collective action and long-term initiatives.

The RQD’s actions are aligned with five strategic directions:

- **Strengthening the association:** Ensure that original and repertoire dance professionals are represented by the association;
- **Consensus-building and mobilization:** Keep members committed to improving working conditions in the discipline;
- **Advocacy:** Make governments and funding agencies aware of the discipline’s development needs;
- **Promoting the discipline:** Strengthen the place of dance in the public mind and media;
- **Organization:** Ensure that the association has the necessary resources to carry out its strategic plan

The RDQ's governance structure is composed of three governing bodies:

- The General Assembly, consisting of all professional individual and corporate members;
- The Board of Directors, consisting of 13 directors: 10 of whom are elected by the General Assembly (five elected by and from among the individual professional members, the other five elected by and from among the corporate professional members), and three of whom are co-opted by the elected directors;
- The Executive Board, whose five members are appointed by the Board of Directors to the positions of Chair, Vice-Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-2011

President : **Marc Boivin**, corporate member, teacher, choreographer and performer, president of the Fondation Jean-Pierre Perreault

Susan Alexander, professional individual member, director, Ballet Divertimento

Mélanie Demers, corporate member, artistic director, Mayday

Louise Dubeau, professional individual member, cultural worker

Karla Étienne, corporate member, executive assistant, performer and dance instructor, Compagnie Danse Nyata Nyata

Isabelle Gagnon, professional individual member, performer

François-Xavier Inchauspé, lawyer, elected director

Sylvain Lafortune, professional individual member, performer and teacher

Élodie Lombardo, professional individual member, choreographer and performer, elected director

Caroline Lussier, corporate member, administrative director, Festival TransAmériques

Isabelle Van Grimde, corporate member, executive and artistic director, Van Grimde Corps Secrets

Jacques Vecerina, corporate member, administrative director, O Vertigo, elected director

Jamie Wright, professional individual member, performer and teacher

A brief history

In 1983, Gaétan Patenaude, head of the Québec section of Dance in Canada Association (and later Executive Director of RQD for over 10 years) spearheaded a wide consultation among Québec performers, teachers and choreographers. The discussions confirmed that the Québec dance community was interested in developing an instrument for consultation, collective action and audience development. At the same time, the various levels of government were looking for ways to support a discipline that was evolving rapidly: creative individuals were forming companies, and several of them would become leading figures in Québec and Canadian dance, as well as internationally.

On October 4, 1984, the Regroupement des professionnels de la danse du Québec (RQD's first name) was incorporated, and an interim board of directors was formed. The first General Assembly was held on February 9, 1985: executive positions were held by Jean-Pierre Perreault (Chairman), Michèle Morin (Vice-Chairman), Gaétan Patenaude (Secretary), Paul-André Fortier (Treasurer) and Daniel Soulières (Director). In founding the Regroupement, a community had given itself the means to realize its ambitions. The late Jean-Pierre Perreault opened the meeting with a statement that still resonates today: "Combining our energies will allow us to come



..... First États généraux de la danse

of age as a community and exercise informed control over our destiny rather than just follow it." These remarkably prescient words continue to guide RQD's activities today.

In February 1994, RQD held the *États généraux de la danse professionnelle au Québec*. It was a memorable moment that would bring together the Regroupement québécois de la danse, performers, teachers, companies, and training, service and specialized presenter organizations under a new banner.

Under the direction of Françoise Bonnin, from 1996 to 2002, and then Lorraine Hébert since October 2003, RQD has managed to take play a national role as the voice of professional dance in Québec. RQD takes advantage of all forums to draw attention to the improvements needed in the living and practice conditions of dance professionals, and has become more and more active, initiating constructive projects such as the Grands Chantiers de la Danse. In April 2009, RQD held the Second *États généraux*, which will result in the publication of a Master Plan for Professional Dance in Québec (Plan directeur de la danse professionnelle au Québec 2011-2021).

The diversity of RQD's many projects and activities reflects the rapid and unprecedented development of the discipline over the last 25 years. This has required a sustained effort at fostering collective action and mobilizing the dance community's many stakeholders around forward-looking and constructive projects.



..... Interview with Jean-Pierre Perreault



Gaétan Patenaude at the first États généraux de la danse



Demonstration against cuts to arts funding (August 2008)
Photo : La Presse



RQD technical class



Pas de danse, pas de vie! (2010)



Margie Gillis at the second États généraux de la danse

25 highlights 25-year history

1. [1986] The creation of l'Agora de la danse
2. [1988] Study on occupational health and safety
3. [1989] The Médias-Danse symposium
4. [1991] The birth of Diagramme Gestion culturelle
5. [1994] The reorganization of the Regroupement
6. [1994] The first États généraux de la danse
7. [1994] Establishing the Dance training support program
8. [1995-2000] Organizing an event for International Dance Day
9. [1997] The creation of La danse sur les routes du Québec
10. [1999] Contributing to the establishment of the Conseil québécois des ressources humaines en culture (CQRHC)
11. [1986] The founding of the Mouvement pour les arts et les lettres
12. [2000] Presenting a brief to the Commission de la Culture du Québec entitled *Un patrimoine culturel en péril* (A cultural legacy at risk)
13. [2000] Change in regulations and adoption of the 2000-03 Strategic Plan
14. [2001] Implementing and consolidating the Professional Development sector
15. [2001] Canada-wide mobilization : Dance at Risk / *La danse en péril*
16. [2003-2005] Implementing the Communications Service and redesigning quebecdanse.org
17. [2005] The 2005-08 Strategic Plan
18. [2005] Conducting the study *L'avenir de la danse à Montréal* (The future of dance in Montreal), to the City of Montreal's public consultation bureau as part of a proposed municipal cultural development policy
19. [2005-...] Designing and coordinating a dance visibility event, *Pas de danse, pas de vie!*
20. [2006-2007] Implementing a joint advocacy committee (RQD/CDA) and tabling the Joint Presentation to the Canada Council for the Arts (March 2006) and New Initiatives for Dance (November 2006); making a joint presentation to the Director of the CCA on future challenges faced by professional dance in Canada
21. [2006] The CSST/MCCCF agreement comes into effect, covering dancers without contracts during periods of professional training.
22. [2006] Leading a pressure campaign against budget cuts announced by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Public Diplomacy and international dissemination
23. [2007] Officially launching the *Grands Chantiers de la Danse*
24. [2007] Obtaining emergency funding for international dissemination from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications
25. [2008-2009] Coordination of preparatory work for the Chantiers and the second États généraux de la danse

The Grands Chantiers de la danse professionnelle du Québec

The cornerstone of the RQD's 2005-2008 Strategic Plan, the *Grands Chantiers de la danse professionnelle du Québec* is a sustained consultation process that, 15 years after the first *États généraux*, unfolds in three phases: preparatory work toward the *Grands Chantiers* project; the organization of the second *États généraux*; and the process leading up to the publication of a Master Plan for Professional Dance in Québec.

1

The Grands Chantiers project

In preparation for the *États généraux*, information was gathered, content developed and recommendations outlined in a preparatory process coordinated by the RQD and overseen by the Steering Committee. Five themes were documented by as many committees between March and December 2008:

- Renewal of the discipline: continuity and change
- Paradoxes and challenges of a qualified dance workforce
- Conditions of practice and artistic requirements
- Consolidation and regeneration of the dance infrastructure
- Dance territories: anchors and nomadism

2

The Second *États généraux* de la danse professionnelle du Québec

From April 23 to 26, 2009, *États généraux* representatives came together at a series of workshops held in Montréal to discuss the recommendations issued by the *Chantiers* committees. During a plenary meeting, they also considered the proposals that had emerged during the workshops.

3

2011–2021 Master Plan for Professional Dance in Québec

To develop the Master Plan for Professional Dance in Québec, the RDQ hired the consulting firm DS20|07 and formed an overseeing committee. The 102 proposals adopted at the *États généraux* were studied and categorized; any aspects not covered by the *Grands Chantiers* were documented. The Master Plan is taking shape, establishing general guidelines and formulating an action plan.

Judging by the initiatives taken by Québec dance community stakeholders since the start of the *Grands Chantiers* project, it is reasonable to assume that the Master Plan will help channel energies around a collective, structured vision of how best to develop the discipline. One thing is certain: it will showcase a community that knows what it wants and where it intends to be by 2021.

THE RQD'S TEAM

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2011

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2010-2011 partners

The Regroupement québécois de la danse receives financial support for 2010-2011 from:

Conseil des arts
et des lettres

Québec



Conseil des Arts
du Canada

Canada Council
for the Arts

CONSEIL DES ARTS
DE MONTRÉAL



Emploi

Québec



ENTENTE SUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT CULTUREL DE MONTRÉAL

Montréal

Culture,
Communications et
Condition féminine

Québec



Conseil québécois des
ressources humaines en culture
Comité sectoriel de main-d'œuvre de la culture

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