

RQD celebrates 30 years of dance in Quebec!

Montreal, October 6, 2014 – Thirty years ago, almost to the day, a handful of pioneers—Jean-Pierre Perreault, Daniel Soulières, Paul-André Fortier, Gaétan Patenaude and Michèle Morin—formed the founding committee of the Regroupement des professionnels de la danse au Québec, as the Regroupement québécois de la danse (RQD) was originally called. That was on October 4, 1984.

Today it is time to celebrate, and RQD plans to mark this special anniversary all year long with a series of events and activities, including its 30th annual meeting of members, a day of workshops, an initiative to collect old photographs from members, and the 4th edition of Québec Danse in April 2015, inviting the public to celebrate dance across Quebec! These will all be great opportunities to come together and look back on a history that is still in the making, taking stock of achievements and, especially, looking toward the future.

“I’m both proud and moved, 30 years after the first presidency of Jean-Pierre Perreault, to kick off these festivities. Over the next year, we’ll be reviewing the accomplishments of a community that, despite certain difficulties, has been able to organize and prove its worth to audiences and funding agencies, in addition to finding innovative ways to support companies, present shows and work together. Dance has a lot to be proud of!” stated RQD president Marc Boivin.

Dance is better organized • The *Politique de la danse au Québec*, published in 1984, described a fragmented dance milieu that was severely lacking in financial resources and organization. Following two États généraux de la danse conferences and the publication, 27 years later, of the colossal *Master Plan for Professional Dance in Quebec 2011–2021*, the dance community has come together in an exemplary fashion to pave the way for its future development.

Dance is winning audiences • In the early 1980s, Quebec had seven professional dance companies. Today, there are sixty-odd companies and an impressive number of independent choreographers contributing to Quebec’s thriving cultural scene, marvelling audiences with their diverse artistic creations, and constantly finding new ways to inhabit public spaces and reach audiences.

Dance is expanding in Quebec • Just 30 years ago, Montreal-based Tangente was Quebec’s only presenter specialized in dance. Today there are five dance presenters and four specialized events. Thanks to La danse sur les routes du Québec, which has helped to develop a touring circuit across Quebec, 28 multidisciplinary presenters and events showcase dance in 18 cities, representing 14 regions!

Dance training is becoming more professionalized and diverse • In 30 years, dance training has made great strides and continues to evolve. Today, seven colleges offer accredited general or technical dance training, and two universities offer specialized dance programs, turning out some 50 graduates every year! There are also roughly 20 specialized dance schools in 17 cities across Quebec.

Quebec’s dancers are performing on the world’s top stages • True cultural ambassadors, our dancers are wooing audiences worldwide, and their popularity just keeps growing. Between 2000 and 2008 alone, the number of performances given by Quebec companies outside Quebec rose from 150 to 507!

In three decades, we’ve joined forces and come a long way together!

About RQD

RQD represents close to 500 dance professionals, defending their interests in both the public and political arenas. Founded in 1984 to give Quebec dance a common voice, RQD has come to play a leading role in carrying out long-term development projects for the discipline. These projects are aimed at promoting dance in all its expressions, strengthening and expanding the discipline across Quebec, and fostering ties among professionals, amateurs and lovers of dance.

Key dates

1984: Founding of the Regroupement des professionnels de la danse au Québec

1994: First États généraux de la danse au Québec conference

2009: Second États généraux de la danse au Québec conference

2011: Publication of the *Master Plan for Professional Dance in Quebec 2011-2021*

RQD receives financial support from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal, Compétence Culture and Emploi-Québec for all of its activities.

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Source

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