

QUÉBEC DANSE

Taking dance across the land

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Montreal, April 12, 2012 – Le Regroupement québécois de la danse (RQD) is setting things in motion with its first edition of **QUÉBEC DANSE**. Running from April 23 to 29, the event will offer over **200 free activities** in **Montreal** and six other sites in Quebec — **Magdalen Islands, Gatineau, L'Islet, Laval, Longueuil, Quebec City, Saint-Colomban, Sainte-Thérèse, Sherbrooke and Valleyfield**. This highly stimulating week will feature a variety of encounters with dance: at schools, studios, libraries, on the street—and even in an hospital. In the company of the **QUÉBEC DANSE** ambassadors, come and join the movement, help to keep Quebec dance vibrant, and celebrate **International Dance Day** on **April 29!**

Marc Boivin, the **QUÉBEC DANSE** spokesperson and President of RQD, is proud to invite the public to this new event, which underscores the diversity and dynamism of dance in Quebec, and recognizes the important role it plays throughout the territory. **QUÉBEC DANSE** thus has a broad scope, illustrating the many facets of the discipline and acknowledging its contributions to Quebec society. Taking over from *Pas de danse, pas de vie !*, which the RQD initiated in 2005, the event is in line with the *Plan directeur de la danse professionnelle au Québec 2011-2021* overseen by RQD's Executive Director **Lorraine Hébert**, which outlines a collective vision of the future of Quebec dance.

QUEBEC DANCE AMBASSADORS

Nine ambassadors from diverse backgrounds will set the tone for **QUÉBEC DANSE**. **Nico Archambault**, a renowned choreographer and dancer, will invite Quebec schoolchildren to expend their energy in a series of flashmobs, for which he has created the initial sequences, while **Nathalie Lambert**, a winner of three Olympic medals in speedskating, will encourage the public to get in shape during the **QUÉBEC DANSE** week through the numerous dance classes offered. From Quebec City, **Maryse Damecour**, a young choreographer and dancer, and **Michèle Serval**, an 82-year old dance enthusiast, will remind us that dance can renew itself only if a passionate new generation is able to connect with an avid public. Choreographer, dancer and cultural mediator **Emmanuel Jouthe** will team up with **Chantal Rouleau**, Mayor of the Borough of Rivière-des-Prairies-Pointe-aux-Trembles, to stress the fact that dance cannot develop without the support of elected officials and presenters, nor without numerous encounters between artists and spectators. From the very beginning, dancer **Margie Gillis** has associated dance with social, humanitarian or environmental causes; together with 6-year-old **Fiona** and 2-year-old **Sidney**, both budding dancers and ambassadors of **QUÉBEC DANSE**, she will demonstrate that dance has the power to involve the public, and to ensure continuity.

These 9 ambassadors will be featured in **four video briefs**, available on quebecdanse.org, the website of **QUÉBEC DANSE**. To join the movement, download them and distribute them freely in your networks.

CHOREOGRAPHIC TRACES

Every year since 2005, RQD has invited dance personalities to create **CHOREOGRAPHIC TRACES** for **International Dance Day**. Composed of 75 steps, the **2012 CHOREOGRAPHIC TRACE** was created by four ambassadors of **QUÉBEC DANSE**: choreographer-dancers **Nico Archambault, Maryse Damecour, Emmanuel Jouthe** and **Margie Gillis**. Illustrating the meeting of four worlds, opening up to other possibilities, it is the link in a chain that symbolically expresses the movement initiated by RQD, which it hopes to develop over time. This year, the **CHOREOGRAPHIC TRACE** is marked out on the ground of the **Espace culturel Georges-Émile-Lapalme** of **Place des Arts**, a loyal partner of RQD since 2005.

FLASHMOBS BY NICO ARCHAMBAULT

Launching the student flashmobs of **QUÉBEC DANSE 2012**, the Trace devised by Nico Archambault was videotaped and shown on quebecdanse.org and various social media on April 3, 2012. Students and teachers from Quebec **primary, secondary and CEGEP-level schools**, for whom the sequence of movements was designed, were invited by the Association québécoise des enseignants de la danse à l'école (AQEDÉ) and the Réseau intercollégial des activités socioculturelles du Québec (RIASQ) to observe, learn and expand these sequences using music of their choice.

In Montreal, Longueuil, Pointe-Claire, Saint-Constant, Saint-Jérôme, Saint-Bruno, Sherbrooke and Quebec City, the participating children and teachers will present their flashmobs at their schools or other public sites, for the most part on **Wednesday, April 25 at 10 a.m.** Videos of these flashmobs will be posted on-line on the various social media. Stay tuned!

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

QUÉBEC DANSE and its ambassadors are also inviting children, teenagers and adults to join in one of the **free activities**—solos, duets, trios or groups—designed to get people moving, to allow them to view dance from all angles. For more details about these activities, go to quebecdanse.org.

Opening Night and dance videos

On Opening Night, **April 23**, some twenty recent dance videos made by Quebec artists will be presented, simulcast at the **Espace Marie Chouinard** in **Montreal** and the **Cercle** in **Quebec City**, an initiative of La Rotonde, centre chorégraphique contemporain de Québec. On the program: seminal works, poetic videos, mysterious and captivating stories, dance studies, tributes to movement, light and the body. Selected by the event's choreographers, dancers and curators, Hinda Essadiqi and Alan Lake, these videos provide an overview of the most recent advances in the field. Invited choreographers and video artists: Marie Chouinard, Emmanuelle Bourassa Beaudoin, Audrey Bergeron, Richard Boran, Arianne Boulet, Sophie Breton, Marites Carino, Claudia Chan Tak & Louis-Elyan Martin & Liane Thériault, Hinda Essadiqi, Stéphanie Decourteille, Florence Figols, Ellen Furey, Dana Gingras, Alan Lake, Philippe Meunier, Marlene Millar & Philip Szporer, Amélie Rajotte, Ben Philippi, Sylvain Poirier & Sonya Stefan & Yves St-Pierre from bande interdite. **Wine reception at 7 p.m. and continuous screenings beginning at 8 p.m. Cash bar.**

Dance classes

Throughout the week, **160 dance classes at 30 different sites** will be offered: in classical dance, contemporary dance, jazz, funk, hip-hop, gumboot, capoeira, break-dance, Argentinean tango, salsa, samba, flamenco, baladi, Afro-Brazilian, contemporary African, bachata, bharata natyam, zumba, bollywood, gigue, folkdance, swing, cabaret, creative dance for children, pilates, yoga and tone workouts. Enjoy!

Rehearsals open to the public

Attend public rehearsals with France Geoffroy, the artistic director and quadriplegic dancer of Corpuscule Danse, at the **Pavillon de danse of UQAM**; with Maria Kefirova at the **Studio de Pigeons International**; with Danièle Desnoyers of Le Carré des Lombes at Circuit-Est, **centre chorégraphique**; with Lily Lapierre, co-director of the **Fleur d'asphalte** dance studio; with Deepali at the **Maison de l'amitié**; and with Marie-Ève Farmer, from Pieds de M and Odyscène, at the **Théâtre Lionel-Groulx in Sainte-Thérèse**. These dancers, choreographers and artistic directors have all embarked on unusual paths, and their artistic approaches are both instructive and eye-opening.

An evening of traditional dance

Discover the riches of traditional Quebec dance with the **École des arts de la veillée de Montréal**, an initiative of the Société pour la promotion de la danse traditionnelle québécoise (SPDTQ), in dance classes offered on **April 27 at 8:30 p.m.**, followed by a high-spirited dance party from **9:30 p.m. to midnight**.

Improvisations, happenings, performances and in situ works

In Montreal, prepare to be amazed by the creations of Manuel Roque in the nave of **Gésu**; of Louis Guillemette at **Studio 303**; of Florence Figols and Johanne Gour at the **Espace culturel Georges-Émile-Lapalme** of **Place des Arts**; of Emmanuelle Calvé, who welcomes audience participation, on the steps of the churches of **Villeray**. In Sherbrooke, the dance troupe **Danse AXILE** will perform at three different venues: the **Salle Le Parvis**, the **Centre culturel Pierre-Gobeil** and the **Centre des arts de la scène Jean-Besré**, where the dance company **Sursaut** is also offering two evenings of improvisation. Also not to be missed is the surprise activity presented by **Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal** on **Tuesday, April 24 at 8 a.m.** in the **Square-Victoria métro**.

Openings

The launch of phase 1 of the *Jean-Pierre Perreault, chorégraphe* project, a virtual exhibition illustrating the artistic path of this major dance figure, will be held at the **Centre d'archives de Montréal of BAnQ** on **April 24, 10 a.m. to noon**. The choreographic excerpts on the program are drawn from the Fonds Jean-Pierre Perreault, acquired by BAnQ. In addition, young artists Dany and Nancy Fortin from L'Islet will launch their contemporary dance troupe **RITUEL**, and perform an excerpt from their debut production, *Notre vie de sœurs*, at the **Studio de danse** at the **Centre récréatif Bernard-Bernier**, on **Saturday, April 28 at 8 p.m.**

Écoute pour voir, presented by Emmanuel Jouthe of Danse Carpe Diem/Emmanuel Jouthe

Not to be missed is the cultural activity *Écoute pour voir*, an encounter involving a dancer, a volunteer from the audience, an iPod, two pairs of headphones, and music selected by each of the performers. Involving up to 16 dancers at a time, these dual strolls and close-up dialogues between individuals in-tune, enveloped in a unique musical atmosphere, will unfold at the **Hôpital Saint-Luc (10 to 11 a.m.)** and in the lobby of the **Grande Bibliothèque** at lunchtime (12:30 to 1:30 p.m.), from **April 24 to 27**.

Theatre productions (not all free admission)

Indoor shows featured in the **QUÉBEC DANSE** week of activities include the following: *Soak* by Martin Messier and Caroline Laurin-Beaucage and *Kiss & Cry* by Michèle Anne De Mey and Jaco Van Dormael from Belgium, at **Usine C**, as part of the Festival Temps d'Images; *Cinq humeurs* by Emmanuel Jouthe at the **Cégep Marie-Victorin** (free admission), at the Maison de la culture de Montréal-Nord (free admission) and, presented by Valspec, at the **Salle Albert-Dumouchel** in **Valleyfield**; *Correria et Agwa* by the hip-hop troupe Käfig under the artistic direction of Mourad Merzouki, at the **Salle Maurice O'Bready** of the Centre culturel of the Université de Sherbrooke.

Students and graduates of dance schools and universities also hope to see you at their performances: from the Dance Department of Concordia University, at the **Contemporary Dance Studio**; from the École supérieure de ballet du Québec, at the **Salle Pierre-Mercure** of the Centre Pierre-Péladeau; from the Ballet de Québec, at the **Salle Albert-Rousseau** in **Quebec City**; from the Académie de danse de l'Outaouais in Gatineau, at the **Salle Odysée de la Maison de la culture de Gatineau**; and from the Cindy Mae Arsenault School in the Magdalen Islands, at the **Galerie Bar Spectacle Les Pas Perdus**.

Book a meeting with dance

Enrich your library and satisfy your passion for dance by acquiring books, souvenir programs, periodicals, video cassettes or DVDs, at bargain prices ranging from 50¢ to \$20. At the **Bibliothèque de la danse Vincent-Warren** of the **École supérieure de ballet contemporain**, from **Thursday, April 26 to Saturday, April 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Bring your shopping bags! Cash only. Dance is also in the spotlight at the **Grande Bibliothèque**: from **April 23 to 29**, the Arts and Literature section will present a selection of books on dance.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

The *Bal des bébés*, a parents-children modern ball, and a performance by Margie Gillis at Place des Arts

On Sunday, April 29, join us in our celebrations of International Dance Day at the Espace culturel Georges-Émile-Lapalme of Place des Arts from 1 to 1:45 p.m. Young and old alike are invited to a festive ball for babies (from 3 to 12 months), directed by Karine Cloutier as part of the Petits Bonheurs festival. The ball will open with a choreography learned by mothers and their babes-in-arms in the contemporary African dance workshops. Everyone is then invited to join in the festivities. From 2:15 to 3 p.m., Hélène Langevin, the choreographer and artistic director of *Bouge de là*, a company for young audiences, will invite parents to create a short choreography with their children.

From 3:15 to 4:15 p.m., Margie Gillis will present the premiere of *On Fairness*, which relates to the standards of fairness governing a conference, a performance or a meeting with the public. Performed by Margie Gillis with music for flute, violin and cello composed by Alfredo Santa Ana, *On Fairness* underscores the inequality and precariousness caused by the global financial crisis, encouraging us to take action. In the words of Margie Gillis, "the body and spirit in the dance can energize and uncover hidden aspects of self, community, modeling healthy engagement and facilitating solution."

Other closing activities include the flashmobs choreographed by Violaine Morinville and Deepali, held both inside and outside Place des Arts.

CANADIAN DANCE CAMPAIGN

As part of QUÉBEC DANSE, RQD is pleased to be associated with the Canadian dance campaign *J'aime la danse / I Love Dance*, spearheaded by the Assemblée canadienne de la danse/Canadian Dance Assembly, and to disseminate its manifesto through the various activities of QUÉBEC DANSE on quebecdanse.org. You can join the *J'aime la danse / I Love Dance* campaign on Facebook ([ilovedancejaimeladanse](https://www.facebook.com/ilovedancejaimeladanse)), Twitter ([iluvdancejmdans](https://twitter.com/iluvdancejmdans)), or via the website ilovedancecanada.wordpress.com.

LE RQD

RQD represents close to 500 dance professionals in the public and political spheres. Founded in 1984 with a view to providing Quebec dance with a unified voice, RQD plays a leading role in organizing formative projects for the discipline. Under the direction of Lorraine Hébert, RQD organized *Les Grands Chantiers de la danse* between 2007 and 2009, which led to the publication in June, 2011 of the *Plan directeur de la danse professionnelle au Québec 2011-2021*, and to the creation in 2011 of the portal quebecdanse.org.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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RQD would also like to thank the event's financial partners: the Bureau des festivals et des événements de la Ville de Montréal, the ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec and the Ville de Montréal, through the Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal.

For its general activities, RQD receives the financial support of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal, the Conseil québécois des ressources humaines en culture, and Emploi-Québec.

For more details on QUÉBEC DANSE, go to www.quebecdanse.org.

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