



# ÉVÈNEMENT QUÉBEC DANSE

10 regions – 100 % dance

**For Immediate Release**

**Montreal, March 27, 2013** – For the 2nd edition of QUÉBEC DANSE, coordinated by the Regroupement québécois de la danse (RQD), hundreds of artists, teachers, presenters and dance-lovers are inviting the public to share their passion for dance, almost everywhere in the province. In schools, concert halls, museums, studios, cafés, bars, libraries, movie theatres, streets, hospitals, on a river, a farm and online, dance will infiltrate and invigorate the daily lives of Quebecers. Scheduled **from April 22 to 29**, the event will feature **over 150 activities**, most of them free of charge. This 100% dance extravaganza will feature open houses, public rehearsals, dance lessons, workshops, exhibitions, installations, cultural mediation projects, theatre or *in situ* performances and dance parties. Complete program details can be found at [www.quebecdanse.org](http://www.quebecdanse.org).

## THE 2013 CHOREOGRAPHIC TRACE

In the wake of *Pas de danse, pas de vie!* (2005-2011), this 2nd edition of QUÉBEC DANSE will run for eight days until April 29: International Dance Day. On that day, BJM – Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal will offer a free performance at the Espace culturel Georges-Émile-Lapalme of Place des Arts (PdA) as part of the CHOREOGRAPHIC TRACE. Every year since 2005, this event has left the imprint of dance in the public space. This time, it will feature seven excerpts from the BJM repertoire, transposed in the form of footprints on the grounds of Place des Arts and Place des Festivals in Montreal's Quartier des spectacles. From April 22 to 30, pedestrians will be able to have a quick dance on site and access video clips, with a QR code, of the BJM dancers in choreographies scripted for the occasion. Fragments of this 2013 CHOREOGRAPHIC TRACE will also be presented in Quebec City and Sherbrooke, two other professional dance centres in which QUÉBEC DANSE will have a strong presence.

With the 2013 CHOREOGRAPHIC TRACE, RQD is marking the 40 anniversary of BJM—a proud ambassador of professional dance in Quebec, Canada and overseas—by reconstructing elements of its imprint, which is still alive in the memory of the bodies of the dancers. "This Trace reflects the urgency of preserving the legacy of dance," explains Marc Boivin, spokesman for QUÉBEC DANSE, "which is an essential part of Quebec's cultural heritage, despite being neglected. The 2013 QUÉBEC DANSE will follow the footsteps of BJM, in a joyful mix of styles, genres and themes mirroring today's constantly evolving dance—in Montreal, Quebec City, Sherbrooke, Laval, Laurentides, Montérégie, Estrie, Chaudière-Appalaches, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Gaspésie-Iles-de-la-Madeleine and Côte-Nord."

## DANCE AT MUSEUMS

In Montreal, the Musée d'art contemporain is organizing a public conversation revolving around German artist Tino Sehgal's *Kiss*, in which a couple enacts well-known kisses from art history. At the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA), QUÉBEC DANSE is holding the delightful *Bal des bébés* hosted by Karine Cloutier, with percussion and a choreographic loop in which Louise Bédard and her three dancers get their inspiration from the public in solos that highlight various architectural aspects of the museum and its collection.

In Quebec City, at the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ), Karine Ledoyen's team is inviting the public to the sound installation *Trois paysages*, featuring performances, discussions, games and set design workshops. In residency at the Musée de la civilisation de Québec (MCQ), Catherine Larocque will open up her rehearsals to the public.

Dance will be on display as well at Salon b with some 20 photographs of performances, companies and artists from Quebec presented by Tangente, which will hold a vernissage-auction under the honorary presidency of Édouard Lock.

## DANCE VARIATIONS

With regard to cultural mediation activities, choreographer Catherine Tardif, dancer Sarah Hanley and composer-performer Michel F. Côté will present an original creation as part of the *Alors, on danse?* project at Circuit-Est, centre chorégraphique, which involves the participation of the visually impaired.

QUÉBEC DANSE and CHUM are renewing their partnership in a project involving patients from the ambulatory care units of the hospital's mental health and drug addiction departments, in a choreographic essay for four professional dancers by choreographer-dancer-teacher Isabel Mohn. Created over the course of some ten workshops, *Corps miroirs* will be presented at the hospital and at the Maison de la culture of Plateau-Mont-Royal, as part of a day of activities organized by Accès Culture.

On the Internet during QUÉBEC DANSE, the *CorresponDances* project initiated by the Association québécoise des enseignants de la danse à l'école (AQEDÉ), in conjunction with RQD, will allow pre-school, primary, secondary and Cégep students to come into contact with dance companies through video. The companies have been asked to capture and extend the short choreographic sequences sent to them by the students and to return the filmed results. These short co-creations can be seen on [quebecdanse.org](http://quebecdanse.org)—and shared on the social media!

Finally, RQD is launching a pilot project with the Père-Ambroise Library and the day care service of the Marguerite-Bourgeoys primary school, which will give children access to dance through movement workshops and books. In addition, some twenty libraries on the Island of Montreal will showcase their books and DVDs on dance, while the Bibliothèque de la danse Vincent-Warren will hold its traditional sale of videos, books and other publications.

## DANCE AT SCHOOL AND BEYOND

As is the case every year, numerous courses are being given at participating schools in all styles of dance. These courses, offered free of charge and on occasion outdoors, include classical ballet, baladi, jive, hip-hop, salsa, Bharata natyam, contemporary African dance and folk dance.

With regard to professional dance education, the École de danse de Québec and the École de danse contemporaine de Montréal are offering open houses, while the École supérieure de ballet du Québec is holding a public rehearsal for its next production and a performance in the school window by its ballerinas, who will present variations based on Balanchine. The contemporary dance troupe at the UQAM sports centre will present its year-end production, and the participants in the improvisation workshop led by Louis Guillemette will present the results of their labours at Studio 303.

Among the numerous initiatives outside Montreal: the daily presence of some forty students from the École Élédanse on the ferry between Lévis and Quebec City; public performances presented by several dance schools in Salabery-Valleyfield; and a flashmob with students from the Quatre-Temps dance school devised by Dominique Porte in collaboration with the Théâtre du Bic.

## DANCE ON STAGE

Coinciding with the free shows at the Maisons de la culture, including Louise Bédard's *J'y suis* and Pierre-Paul Savoie's *Contes pour enfants pas sages*, the Soeurs Schmutt Company is presenting *Schmuttland : pour une utopie durable* at a cabaret-dinner at the Café-Bistrot l'Arrêt de bus (voluntary contribution). In addition, Wants&Needs Danse is bringing the 10th edition of *Short&Sweet* to the Sala Rossa, a playful evening in which artists will have carte blanche to create whatever they want... as long as it's under three minutes. And audiences will be able to see the results of the rich intercultural exchanges between Quebec choreographer Emmanuel Jouthe and Italian choreographer Chiara Frigo in *When We Were Old* at Agora de la danse, as well as those between choreographer Roger Sinha and composer Kiya Tabassian in *Sunya*, presented by Danse Danse at the Cinquième Salle of Place des Arts.

Outside of Montreal, *Heart as Arena*, by Vancouver native Dana Gingras, will be performed at the Centennial Theatre in Lennoxville and at La Rotonde in Quebec City, which is also presenting the results of a mentorship project involving two emerging dancer-choreographers.

In Sherbrooke, at the Centre des arts de la scène Jean-Besré, the Sursaut Dance Company will improvise for and with the public, while the AXILE company will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a variety of projects. Both of these companies, as well as other choreographers and dancers from Estrie, will present excerpts from their original works and repertoires during happy-hour festivities entitled *ICI DANSE, Vue sur la création chorégraphique en Estrie*.

## "THE GRAND PARTY"

The "Grand Party," organized in Montreal by the RQD in conjunction with the Société pour la promotion de la danse traditionnelle québécoise – Espace Trad, will welcome artists and dance enthusiasts to the Cabaret du Mile-End on Thursday, April 25, from 7:30 p.m. until late. Square dances called by Pierre Chartrand, with three musicians and performances by the urban percussive dance company [ZØGMA], plus a DJ as a bonus, will keep things moving!

## **RQD**

RQD allies and represents nearly 500 dance professionals. Founded in 1984 with the mandate of providing Quebec dance with a unified voice, RQD plays a leading role in implementing long-term development projects for the entire 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 *Master Plan for Professional Dance in Quebec 2011-2021*. In 2011, RQD launched quebecdance.org and the QUÉBEC DANSE event in 2012, following five editions of *Pas de danse, pas de vie!*

RQD is pleased to have its 2nd edition of QUÉBEC DANSE associated with the I Love Dance/J'aime la danse Campaign, initiated by the Canadian Dance Assembly (ACD-CDA).

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

RQD would like to thank all those companies, production and distribution organizations, scholastic institutions, artists, teachers and cultural workers who participated in this 2nd edition of QUÉBEC DANSE.

RQD would also like to thank its collaborators and partners for QUÉBEC DANSE: BJM, AQEDÉ, SPDTQ-Espace Trad., CHUM, PdA, MMFA, MNBAQ, MCQ, Conseil de la culture des régions de Québec et de Chaudières-Appalaches, Conseil de la culture de l'Estrie, Accès Culture network, Bibliothèques publiques de Montréal and the day care service of the Marguerite-Bourgeois primary school.

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For complete details on the QUÉBEC DANSE event, visit [www.quebecdance.org](http://www.quebecdance.org).

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