



ÉVÈNEMENT
QUÉBEC DANSE

INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY MESSAGE FROM PAUL-ANDRÉ FORTIER

Creators use their identity to make art, weaving works from the deep fibres of their being. Artists share a part of themselves.

Dance is a mode of expression that moves beyond language, borders and cultures. It is an invaluable vehicle for exchange.

Dance is an intense celebration of the body and breath. It is an art of jubilation and all that is ephemeral. Allowing every freedom, it is a true ritual to celebrate life.

Dance is a pure act of metaphor and metamorphosis. It brings out the divine in each of us, allowing us to speak with the gods and shout at the devil. Dance is an art that allows human beings, in the words of Valéry, to “express perfect thoughts.”

Over the years, I’ve watched and taken part in many performances, and there is much I have yet to see and do. I have an insatiable passion for dance and creation.

I’m astonished and delighted by the formidable talent of the up-and-coming generations of bold young dancers. I recognize in them the wild energy that inspired us in the seventies and eighties, and I’m gratified to see that the wheel is turning and that dance is alive and well. It is shaking things up and questioning a world that has profoundly changed with the advent of new technologies. Young creators are renegotiating our way of being in the world with plenty of verve and aplomb. They keep us in line with the times as they ask what tomorrow holds in store.

Dance is a vital breath that is constantly regenerated over time. It is life in its purest form.

What I wish, on International Dance Day, is for homegrown dance, built on our identity, to be recognized as an undeniable part of our history and cultural heritage. Only we can safeguard and cultivate this collective treasure. If we truly believe in this project, we will succeed. We will then be able to leave a rich legacy for future generations. And we will know why we danced so much.



Dancer and choreographer Paul-André Fortier is internationally renowned for dance that is marked by innovation, renewal, and a desire to defy convention. In a career spanning four decades, he has created 49 original works, given performances in dozen countries and received numerous awards. Constantly challenging himself to meet the highest artistic standards, Mr. Fortier has dedicated his Professional life to dance at an unparalleled level of excellence, and has inspired an entire génération of choreographers. Humbly describing himself as « a man who dances », he continues to perform all over the world, creating Works for his own company and other ensembles in Canada and abroad. In 2011, Paul-André Fortier was named Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by France and received Governor General's award in 2012 for his entire career.

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