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SEASON



Place des Arts

PRESS KIT

MONTRÉAL DANSE

(Quebec)

PRISMES

BENOÎT LACHAMBRE

December 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 2014
Cinquième Salle, Place des Arts

Length: 1 h 10

The mischievous iconoclast Benoît Lachambre plays with light, colours and the bodies of the dancers of Montréal Danse to stimulate our senses. A gust of fresh air and pleasure.

CREDITS

Choreographer Benoît Lachambre

Artistic Advisor Kathy Casey

Performers Rachel Harris, Elinor Fueter, Annik Hamel, Sylvain Lafortune, Manuel Roque, Peter Trosztmer

Light Lucie Bazzo

Music Laurent Maslé, Tomas Furey

Technical Director Karine Gauthier

Sound Technician Guillaume Cavaliere Beranek

Prismes benefited from the support of L'Agora de la danse in Montreal and of Théâtre Hector-Charland in L'Assomption.

ABOUT *PRISMES*

In shaping *Prismes*, Benoît Lachambre leads the audience into perception games that study the presence of the body and the radiance of light, exploring the ways bodies interact and communicate. How does a presence (such as a body, an object, an action, a look) reveal itself? How does a body radiate? Here the process of representation is deconstructed and reworked.

With the complicity of lighting designer Lucie Bazzo and the composer Laurent Maslé, Benoît Lachambre unveils these different forms of presence by playing with vivid and fluctuating colors, sometimes outrageously opposed, creating visual discrepancies, causing losses of balance, distorted symmetries and intensified illusions.

Benoît Lachambre questions the truth and appropriateness of a presence with obvious visual delight, and in the process leaves a strong imprint on the spectator, one that is retinal, emotional and physical.

Prismes is an experiment that is neither scientific nor psychedelic but intense, unsettling and jubilant. *Prismes* studies the energies between bodies that come close or clash, as well as the energies between performers and members of the audience. These games reveal the incongruous and the unusual, and open layers of perception and reflection, unveiling the numerous and perpetual fictions that reality creates.

Created in 2013 at Agora de la danse, *Prismes* is danced by six seasoned performers: Rachel Harris, Elinor Fueter, Annik Hamel, Sylvain Lafortune, Manuel Roque and Peter Trosztmer.

PRESS QUOTES

"With its playfulness, its delirious soundtrack, its extravagant performers, *Prisms* is a tremendous piece, that hopefully will be presented again in Montreal."

François Dufort, *Dfdanse*, October 20, 2013

"With the constraints that the structure imposes on the bodies, and thanks to the piece's wide palette of bright colours permeating the retina, there's no doubt *Prisms* is a show whose images will continue to haunt us."

Sylvain Verstricht, *Local Gestures*, October 18, 2013

"What's so memorable in this nonstandard work is hard to describe - it is most of all a physical experience to undergo with all the senses being bombarded, fascinated, teased and shaken – is the perfect fusion of all its elements. It's the biggest success, because in this universe of eclectic extravagance, it'd take only one ill-placed or mediocre element to break the magic and the perfect balance.

(...) The performers are breathtaking and engage their bodies in all states, in perilous situations, with humor and derision. Generous in their movements as much as their voices. But this couldn't be without the prowess of lighting designer Lucie Bazzo and the exhilarating sound universe of Laurent Maslé and Tomas Furey. It's very colourful in every sense of the word. And as the colours interact, the performers' bodies trigger alchemic reactions between themselves as much as with the bodies of the audience, bringing everyone somewhere, on a journey."

Aline Apostolska, *La Presse*, October 18, 2013

"Splendidly carried by Montréal Danse's six performers, who are equally dancers, acrobats and performance artists, and Lucie Bazzo's remarkable lighting work, Benoît Lachambre's piece is *a refreshing and playful experience that awakens all of our senses.*"

Marine Billoir, *PatWhite*, October 21, 2013

"Among the cast of *Prisms* are the powerful Elinor Fueter, the sensitive Annik Hamel and the charismatic Rachel Harris. We're also excited at the return of the talented Sylvain Lafortune and Peter Trosztmer, both of them bearing a major role in the history of dance in Quebec, as well as arrival of Manuel Roque, a circus performer that has been breaking through in the choreographic landscape in the past few years. For them alone, *Prisms* is worth the trip."

Fabienne Cabado, *VOIR*, October 17, 2013

"A prophet has no honour in his own country. The work of Benoît Lachambre receives greater recognition in Europe than here in Quebec. Yet for the past 30 years the choreographer has been a trailblazer, a leading light and an ambassador of new dance in Quebec."

Luc Boulanger, *La Presse*, October 16, 2013

BENOÎT LACHAMBRE – CHOREOGRAPHER

A choreographer, dancer, improviser and teacher, Benoît Lachambre is a graduate of Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal. In 1996 he founded the Par B.L.eux Company, and has created 15 works to date. He has collaborated with various choreographers such as Lynda Gaudreau, Felix Ruckert, Catherine Contour, Boris Charmatz, Sasha Waltz, Isabelle Schad and Laurent Goldring, and also with Meg Stuart and Hahn Rowe with whom he created *Forgeries, Love and Other Matters*. In 2006 it received the prestigious Bessie Award.

Recipient of the Prix Jacqueline Lemieux (1999) and the MONTREAL DANCE PRIZE (2013), Benoît Lachambre has created more than 25 dance pieces, including the solo « I » *Is Memory* for Louise Lecavalier (part of the 2007 Danse Danse program) and *Les Portes-Heures de paroles* for Marion Ballester, which had its première at the Festival Antipodes du Quartz, Scène Nationale de Brest, where he was artist in residence for a number of years. He also has a number of ensemble pieces to his credit, including *Lugares Comunes, Is You Me* and *Body Scan*.

MONTRÉAL DANSE – COMPANY

“In fact, the two main strengths of Montréal Danse, which engages the services of choreographers with different styles and backgrounds, are the informed eye and involvement of its artistic director, who provides active support to dance artists, and the personality and versatility of its dancers.” (*Voir, Montreal*)

Founded in 1986, Montréal Danse has been under the artistic direction of Kathy Casey since 1996. In addition to creating new works, the company is also a research laboratory, a partner in the career development of Quebec artists and a producer of dance pieces. It draws on a pool of talented, versatile dancers and collaborates with guest choreographers from here and elsewhere. Playing an important role in the development of the art of choreography, it has presented and promoted the works of many seasoned and merging artists such as José Navas, Sarah Chase, Estelle Claretton and Jean-Sébastien Lourdaïs. Constantly evolving, its repertoire counts more than 50 highly diverse dance pieces. Renowned for creating powerful works that reflect a desire to give choreographers the means of fully developing their ideas in collaboration with veteran dancers and an enlightened artistic director, Montréal Danse also offers several creative workshops and seminars. For many years now it has been actively involved in the *Danse contre la violence* project run by three shelters for women in difficulty.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE PERFORMERS

Elinor Fueter

Since arriving in Montreal in 1994, Elinor Fueter has followed an eclectic path. After graduating from LADMMI (Ateliers de danse moderne de Montréal) in 1998 she started working with various dance artists, but also in street performance and video. Along the way, Elinor has developed a special interest and inspiration for clownish characters. Among the works in which she has collaborated are *Coquille cherchant un oeil* by Lina Cruz, *Bêtes de Foire* by Alain Francoeur, *Some Strange Winters* by Natalie Morin, several works by Mobile Home Cie, Catherine Lipscomb and her company Mange mes pieds, *Le psychotic happening* by Peter James, the *Celebrations* projects of Danse- Cité, *Joe* by Jean-Pierre Perreault, choreographies by Marie Pascale Bélanger and finally *We* by Chanti Wadge. In 2010 Elinor joined the Montréal Danse team, where she works with choreographers Estelle Clareton, George Stamos and Benoît Lachambre.

Annik Hamel

Annik earned a Bachelor's degree in dance from the Université du Québec à Montréal, and joined Montréal Danse in 1987. Her dance career has been nourished by more than fifty encounters with creators from Montreal and afar, the majority as a member of Montréal Danse, but also as an explorer with other organizations or as a soloist. These artists include Jean-Pierre Perreault, Paul-André Fortier, Daniel Léveillé, Ginette Laurin, Natsu Nakajima (Japan), Françoise Sullivan, Suzan Marshall (U.S.), James Kudelka, Karine Pontiès (Belgium), Ae Soon Ahn (Korea), Danièle Desnoyers, José Navas, Estelle Clareton and Martin Bélanger. Annik has a strong interest in acting and theatricality, which has regularly led her to make incursions into theater and cinema.

Rachel Harris

Originally from Vancouver, Rachel moved to Montreal in 1990 to pursue her dance training at LADMMI. Following her training, she joined Danse Partout in Quebec City and co-founded Amorce Danse Théâtre. As a freelance dancer, Rachel has danced with Marie Béland, Sarah Bild, Estelle Clareton, Margie Gillis, Anne-Marie Giroux, Benjamin Hatcher, Jean-Sébastien Lourdais, Jean-Pierre Perreault and George Stamos. In 2002 and 2003 Rachel created The Coyote Project, a full-length work for four dancers in close collaboration with the Nlaka'pamux tribe of British Columbia. Rachel joined Montréal Danse in 1998 and now does tour managing for the company as well as dancing. With Montréal Danse she has interpreted works by Ae-Soon Ahn, Blanca Arrieta, Martin Bélanger, José Besprosvany, Sarah Chase, Estelle Clareton, Avi Kaiser, Jean-Pierre Mondor, José Navas and Paula de Vasconcelos.

Sylvain Lafortune

Born in Montreal, Sylvain Lafortune began his professional career in 1979. He has since been a featured dancer of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, O Vertigo and Montreal Danse in Montreal, Lar Lubovitch Dance Co, Susan Marshall & Company and Martha Clarke in New York. He has performed all over the world and danced many of the classical and contemporary masterpieces. Currently a freelance dancer, Sylvain Lafortune regularly teaches dance and circus arts. Through his Master's and Doctoral research at UQAM, Sylvain Lafortune has developed unique expertise in partnering, and a teaching method that combines two essential elements: knowledge of basic biomechanical principles and terminology to facilitate communication between partners and heighten the awareness of the experience.

Manuel Roque

Following studies in theatre and then circus at National Circus School in Montreal, Manuel Roque began his career twirling with Cirque Eloïze before discovering dance. In his pursuit of diversity, Roque went on to explore playful forms (Hélène Langevin, dance company for young audiences), as well as more formal (Dominique Porte, Sylvain Émard, Paul-André Fortier) and theatrical (Peter James) forms of dance. He then spent three years working full-time with Marie Chouinard, eventually winning a Gemini Award for the televised performance of *Body-remix/Goldberg-Variation*. In addition to his performance career, Roque has also worked as a choreographer (*Brendon et Brenda*, 2002, *Ô mon bateau*, 2004, *RAW-me*, 2010). *Raw-me*, a solo that he choreographed and performs, has been warmly received and earned numerous prizes at Vue sur la Relève 2011. He joined the team of Montréal Danse for *Prismes* by Benoît Lachambre.

Peter Trosztmer

Peter has choreographed and performed works that have been seen as far away as China, Taipei, Korea, Columbia, Mexico, Jordan, Kuwait, Cuba, England, Scotland, France, Austria, Germany and Croatia, not to mention the United States and Canada. After receiving his B.A. in Classics, Peter studied at the Concordia University Dance Dept. before moving to Toronto to complete the STDT training program in 1997. He has trained intensively with Edward Hillyer, and has worked and collaborated with: Martin F Bélanger, Margie Gillis, Carré Des Lombes, Compagnie Flak, Coleman and Lemieux, James Kudelka, Marie Chouinard, Lois Brown, La 2e Porte à Gauche, Marie Beland, Elizabeth Langley, Catherine Tardif, Edward Hillyer, Victor Quijada, Sharon Moore, Dean Makarenko, Jacob Wren, Louise Bedard, Katie Ward, Sharon Moore, Philip Szporer and Marlene Millar, Sarah Febrarro, Thea Patterson, Allen Francour and Jean Grand-Maitre. With Montréal Danse, he has danced for Estelle Clareton, Ahh Soon Ahn and Karen Ponties. He is currently collaborating with Montréal Danse and Benoît Lachambre in the creation of *Prismes*. Peter is now pursuing his own solo work, and other projects that inspire him include his solo series *Synthesis as Composure*, his work with the Montreal collective The Choreographers and *Norman*, a one-man show performed by Peter Trosztmer, co-choreographed with Thea Patterson and created with Victor Pilon and Michel Lemieux of 4Dart.

*This press kit consists of material provided by the company
and by research conducted by the Danse Danse team.*