

DANSE 2015
DANSE 2016
CRÉATEUR DU MOUVEMENT



JOSÉ NAVAS, GRAND MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Quebec

JOSÉ NAVAS / COMPAGNIE FLAK

Rites

José Navas

In co-presentation with



Place des Arts

8 PM
LENGTH – 1 H
VENUE – CINQUIÈME SALLE

November 11, 2015
November 12, 2015
November 13, 2015
November 14, 2015
November 18, 2015
November 19, 2015
November 20, 2015
November 21, 2015
November 25, 2015
November 26, 2015
November 27, 2015
November 28, 2015

TICKETS START AT \$37.50

Post-performance talk with the artists

Friday November 13, 2015,
Friday November 20, 2015,
Friday November 27, 2015,

Montreal, October 19, 2015. The magnetic José Navas will be presenting a variation on the passage of time in *Rites*, a new solo performance featuring the grace and intensity that have made him one of the most admired artists on the Quebec dance scene. More authentic than ever, he plunges full force into dance performed to classical and jazz music. He will be presenting the North American première of a vigorous and audacious version of the *Rite of Spring*, created in Bruges in 2013 for the centennial celebrations of this mythical ballet. This complex, dramatic and highly lyrical piece highlights his sensitivity, expressiveness and talent, which have ripened over the years. A powerful, moving ritual about the passage of time.

RITES

DANCING LIFE... UNTIL DEATH

While time has not dimmed the charisma and talent of José Navas, the artist has decided to celebrate turning fifty with a rite of passage. After the success of *Personæ*, presented at Danse Danse in 2011-2012, the dancer and choreographer is back with this new solo performance, a

vibrant ritual and a tribute to the road travelled thus far as he now reaps the fruits of maturity. Once again he is an open, unpretentious presence onstage, revealing the fragility of a man aware of his finite existence. In the company of Schubert, Dvořák and Nina Simone he observes the fleeting years, looks back at love affairs, seeks inner peace. With Stravinsky he proclaims his abiding passion for dance in a brilliant performance of the role of the Chosen One in the *Rite of Spring*. A dense, dramatic work full of lyricism and grace.

“José Navas is a dancer of undeniable authority of presence, very distinguished and capable of beautiful precision of line and great sensuality.”
(*Le Devoir*, review of *Personæ*)

AN AMAZING *RITE OF SPRING*

First presented in 2013 at the Concertgebouw in Bruges for the *Chacun son sacre* festival, this 40-minute solo is the grand finale in this new opus by José Navas. The dancer and choreographer presents a magnificent performance of the famous role of the Chosen One, who he incarnates in three visions. His dance is minimalist, yet ready to explode. It vibrates with the forces of nature before dissolving the feminine and the masculine in a conflagration of the soul, an unveiling of the body and exhaustion. A powerful, troubling and captivating ceremony that probes the fascination of the performing arts for sacrifice.

“I happened to be creating this solo at the same time that I was finishing my version of *Giselle* for the dancers of Ballet BC in Vancouver. Both these works feature characters, Hilarion and the Chosen One, who dance to death” notes the choreographer. “I find it so much more interesting to concentrate on the notion of sacrifice in the *Rite of Spring* that I sometimes go beyond my limits in the name of art. Changing costumes in front of the audience is also a sort of comment on this personal sacrifice, as I shift many times from the character to the performer who appears as a simple citizen.”

JOSÉ NAVAS

POIGNANT SOLOIST, ARCHITECT OF SPACE

A native of Caracas, Venezuela, José Navas moved to New York before settling in Montreal, where he created his first choreography in 1991. Four years later he founded Compagnie Flak who celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2015. An exceptional dancer, he pursues a threefold path in his choreography. He pursued his career by creating moving solos, the basis of his success. In his group pieces, he has progressed from theatricality to pure movement and total abstraction. Over the past five years he has also made headway in the world of contemporary ballet, receiving commissions from companies such as Ballet BC in Vancouver (where he was choreographer in residence for three years), the National Ballet of Canada and the Staatstheater Mainz in Germany.

While the exquisite aesthetics of works such as *Portable Dances*, *Anatomies*, *S* and *Diptych* (presented respectively at Danse Danse in 2009-2010 and 2012-2013) reflect his exceptional sense of architectural composition, his solo pieces like *Miniatures*, *Personæ* and now *Rites* incite a more visceral emotional response. Among the thirty some works he has created during the course of his career, *Sterile Fields*, *One Night Only 3/3*, *Perfume de Gardenias* and *Solo with Cello* (also seen at Danse Danse in 2000-2001) are milestones of dance that have become dynamic points of reference.



“José Navas won over Quebec audiences shortly after moving to Montreal, and his success has only grown over the past 25 years. He seduces with his graceful dancing, touching the spectator with the richness of his performance. It is always a pleasure to welcome him.”

Artistic Programmers

TICKETS START AT \$37.50

Place des Arts's Box Office : 514 842.2112 / 1 866 842.2112



TALK ABOUT DANCE

MEET THE ARTISTS

Friday, November 13, 20, 27, 2015

Rigth after the show

RITES, AN EXPERIENCE, A DANCE FILM IN 3D AND 360 DEGREES



Co-produced by ICI ARTV, José Navas/Compagnie Flak and Studio Nora.

Featuring excerpts from the new solo piece *Rites* by José Navas, the film directed by Arno Faure allows spectators to watch three solos simultaneously as they move through a totally immersive space to the music of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. A highly original close encounter with the artist, a unique experience at ARTVstudio.

From Wednesday to Saturday, November 11 to 28, 4 to 8 p.m.

ARTVstudio, a cultural space in the heart of Place des Arts
1600 rue St-Urbain
ici.artv.ca/artvstudio



NEXT PERFORMANCE

BJM - LES BALLETS JAZZ DE MONTRÉAL

PROGRAMME TRIPLE

Itzik Galili + Andonis Foniadakis + Rodrigo Pederneiras

December, 3. 4. 5, 2015

Théâtre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts

Powerful music, mass movements, sensuality and frenzy. BJM - Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal presents the contagious energy of three original dance pieces – a look at the modern couple, a tribute to Native peoples and the creative force of urban chaos.

Visit the Danse Danse website for additional information on dance pieces and the dance companies being featured: video excerpts, interviews, photos, full credits and various related hyperlinks.

DANSEDANSE.CA

SOURCE - 30 -

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CREDITS

Choreographer, Dancer José Navas. **Lighting Design** Marc Parent. **Technical Director** Pierre Lavoie. **Costumes Design** Sonya Bayer. **Fabrication** L'Atelier de Couture Sonya B. **Music** A. Dvořák, F. Schubert, N. Simone, I. Stravinski.

Photo 1 and 2 © Valerie Simmons. **Dancer** José Navas.

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