



THE SUBVERSIVE SOUTH-AFRICAN DADA MASILO IN MONTREAL AT LAST

South Africa

DADA MASILO / DANCE FACTORY
JOHANNESBURG

Swan Lake
Dada Masilo

8 PM
LENGTH – 1 H 10
VENUE – SALLE WILFRID
PELLETIER

January 14, 2016
January 15, 2016
January 16, 2016

TICKETS START AT \$34.00

Post-performance talk with the artists
Friday January 15, 2016,

Montreal, December 14, 2015. 30 years old, she is a prodigious dancer who captivates Western audiences with her galvanizing re-imaginings of great ballet classics. Invited by Danse Danse for her first performance tour in Canada, the South African Dada Masilo will be arriving with 13 electrifying dancers and a *Swan Lake* that turns the received ideas and taboos of her native country upside down. In a perfect fusion of classical and African dance, she rewrites the story of the prince Siegfried and his thwarted love. In this humorous and caustic version of the legendary romantic ballet, he quite simply refuses to marry the princess, a young woman under an evil spell that condemns her to turn into a white swan every day at dawn. He prefers the black male swan, who is most certainly not the spitting image of his betrothed. This is a lucid and intelligent evocation of the issues of homophobia, forced marriages, the legacy of apartheid and the ravages of AIDS. Don't miss this compelling artist. #DadaMTL

SWAN LAKE

STRONG EMOTIONS AND SCATHING HUMOUR

The young South African Dada Masilo will be making a sensational Canadian début with this iconoclastic adaptation of *Swan Lake*, where she brilliantly dances the role of the beautiful Odette. The victim of a sorcerer's curse, she is transformed into a white swan every day at dawn. But in this version, it is neither she nor her look-alike that Prince Siegfried falls in love with. To the great sorrow of his parents, he succumbs to the charms of a black swan, a very male black swan, an attraction that proves fatal.

“Transformed into a Zulu feast, the iconic ballet of the romantic repertoire *Swan Lake* becomes a bomb that attacks the taboos of the black continent head-on. An explosive black and gay version that will no doubt leave its mark on the history of dance.” (*LesTroisCoups.com*, France)

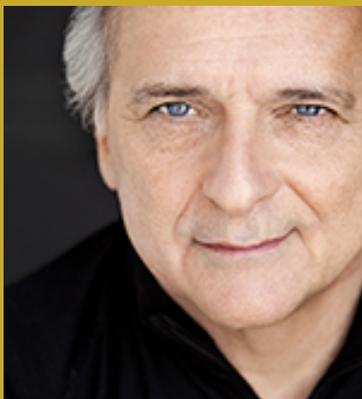
FROM DANCING ON POINTS TO BAREFOOT DANCE

Created in 1877 at the Bolshoi in Moscow and set to the music of Tchaikovsky, *Swan Lake* is a ballet that has inspired countless versions and performances of the piece. Dada Masilo has been obsessed by the work since the age of 11. After taking on first *Romeo and Juliet* and then *Carmen*, in 2010 she perfected her fusion of classical and African styles in this revised tale of Siegfried, Odette and Odile. Between arabesques, bare feet striking the floor, clapping hands, swaying hips and voices punctuating the rhythm of the dance, she employs the metaphor of Tchaikovsky's homosexuality masked behind the impossible love of the original version and introduces the theme of AIDS at the end of the piece, thus confronting two major taboos prevalent in her native land. She also questions the heritage of the apartheid regime, combining more contemporary sounds with the original score and hijacking the codes of ballet. All the dancers are in tutus, torsos shimmering with sweat, and the lead is a well-built male dancer rather than a slender ballerina.



DADA MASILO, REINVENTING DANCE AND MYTHS

Dada Masilo grew up in the impoverished neighbourhood of Soweto, where she was born in 1985. She studied classical and contemporary dance in South Africa, followed by two years in Brussels at PARTS, the famous dance school founded by the choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker. Combining her training with the traditions of African dance, she established a unique signature, captivating audiences with reworkings of major classics from the Western dance repertoire. She founded her own company in 2008 and became a celebrity in South Africa, and soon afterward became a star on the international scene. She has choreographed a dozen dance pieces and has received two major South African awards – the Gauteng Arts and Culture MEC Award in 2006 for most promising female dancer in a contemporary style, and the Standard Bank Young Artist Award in 2008 for her *Romeo and Juliet*.



"The ballets that have marked the history of dance are like the myths engraved on our collective memory. It is always rewarding to revisit them and thereby shed light on contemporary values and issues. Dada Masilo has a gift for taking on this sort of challenge. I am pleased and proud to be able to open the doors to the Canadian dance scene for her."

Pierre Des Marais, Artistic and Executive Director

TICKETS START AT 34 \$

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



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NEXT PERFORMANCE
LA OTRA ORILLA
MOI&LESAUTRES
Myriam Allard + Hedi Graja

January 27. 28. 29. 30, 2016
February 3. 4. 5. 6, 2016

Cinquième Salle, Place des Arts

The charismatic Myriam Allard and her accomplice Hedi Graja once again break new ground in flamenco with their most recent piece. They set the stage ablaze in a series of tableaux that merge dance and live music into an exciting whole. Intense, dazzling, thrilling.

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

Swan Lake

Choreography Dada Masilo. **Compagny** The Dance Factory. **Music** Pyotr Iliich Tchaïkovsky, Steve Reich, René Avenant, Camille Saint-Saëns, Arvo Pärt. **Lighting Design** Suzette Le Sueur. **Costume Design** Dada Masilo et Suzette Le Sueur. **Costume Confection** Ann et Kirsten Bailes. **Hats Confection** Karabo Legoabe. **Technical Director** Interarts Lausanne Emmanuel Journoud. **Production** The Dance Factory, Suzette Le Sueur et Interarts Lausanne, Chantal et Jean-Luc Larguier. **Presenting** Scènes de la Terre, Martine Dionisio.

Premiere at National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, Afrique du Sud, July 2, 2010.

Photo 1 *Swan Lake* © John Hogg. Photo 2 *Swan Lake* © John Hogg. **Dancer** Dada Masilo.

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