

**BURN
BABY,
BURN**

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Côté
DANSE

2025 | 2026



Welcome! This guide is designed to prepare you to experience ***Burn Baby, Burn***, a powerful contemporary dance work by Côté Danse, created by Guillaume Côté. The guide includes background on the performance, what to expect, and thoughtful questions to help you reflect on the show afterward.

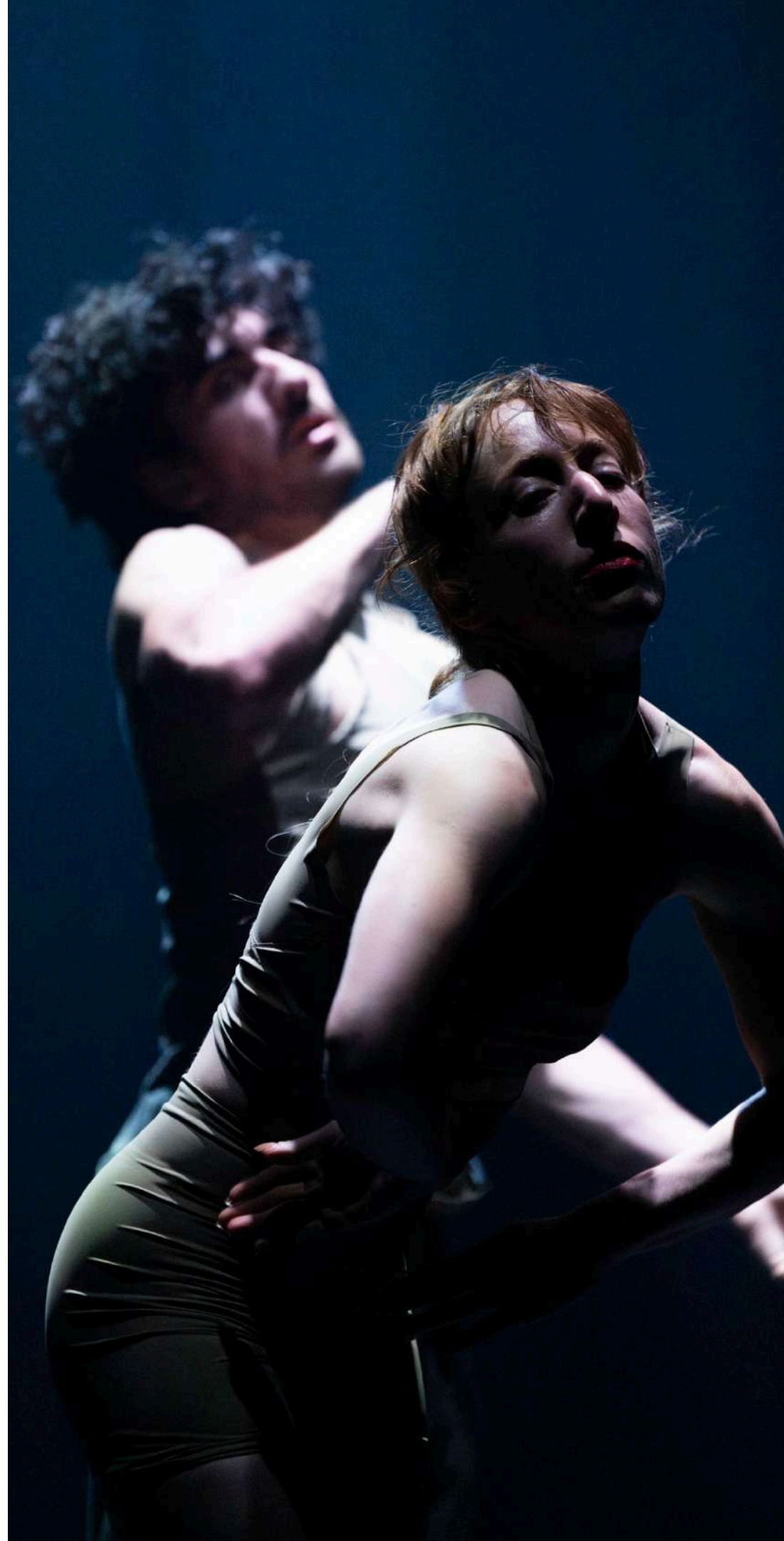
Whether you're new to contemporary dance or a regular viewer, the goal is the same: to **feel**, to **observe**, and to **think** deeply about what movement and music can express without words.

INTRODUCTION



ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

[WATCH THE TRAILER!](#)



Burn Baby, Burn is a vibrant, physical, and poetic performance exploring the human spirit under pressure. The piece draws from the **energy of fire**, **humanity**, **protest**, **resilience**, **rage**, **celebration**—and also from urgent **global challenges such as climate change**, which adds a layer of urgency and collective responsibility.



THIS PERFORMANCE:

- Features **nine exceptional dancers**, known for their strength, individuality, and diversity of movement style.
- **Fuses classical, contemporary, modern, and street-style movement** with electronic and percussive music.
- Was inspired by **Guillaume Côté's reflections on climate change**, resistance, collective energy, and the power of shared physical expression.
- Is **non-narrative**, meaning it doesn't tell a literal story, but instead evokes themes and emotions through the body and sound.



BEFORE THE SHOW

Class Discussion

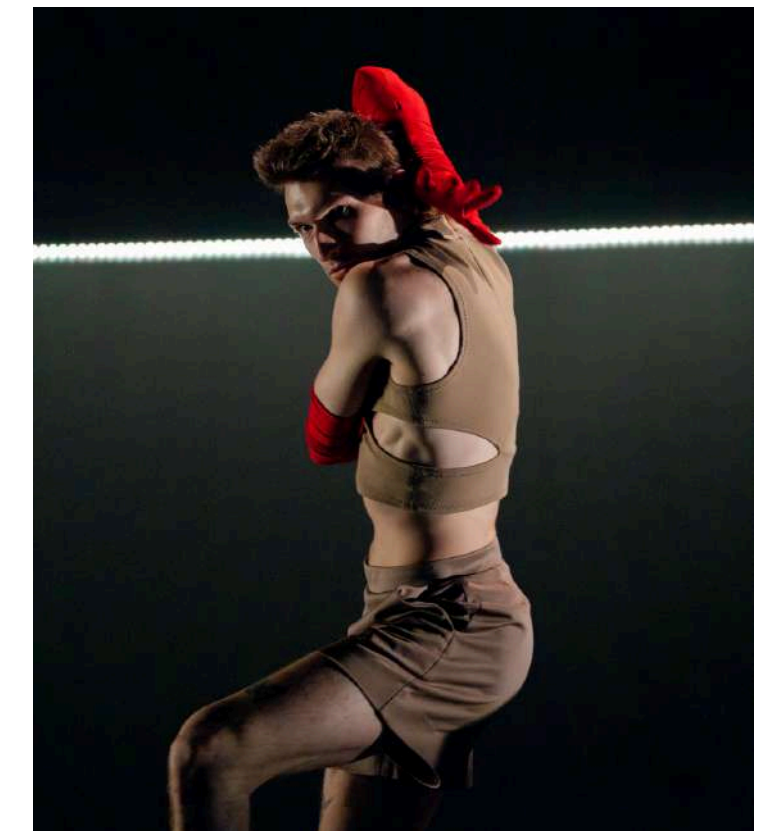
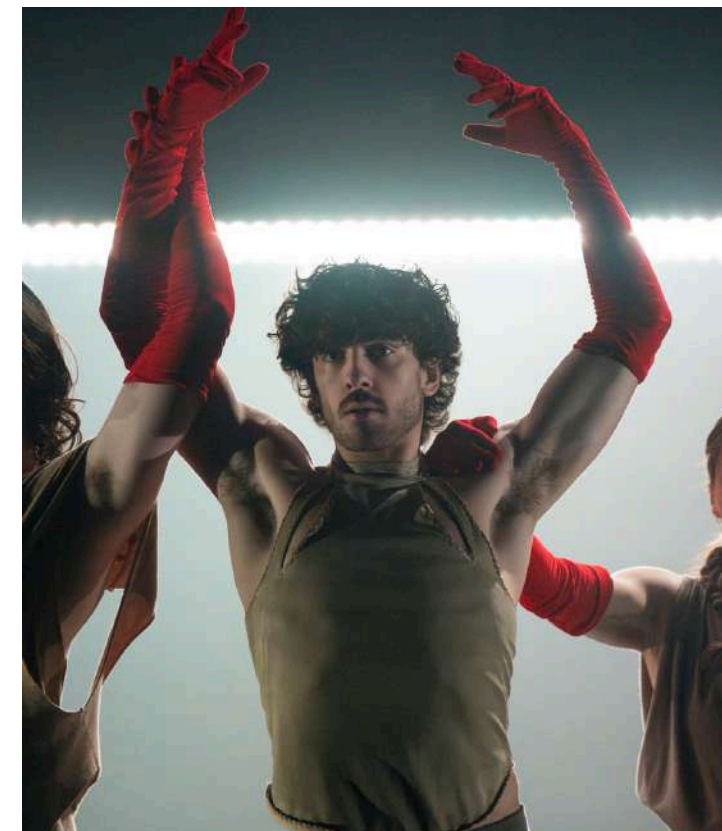
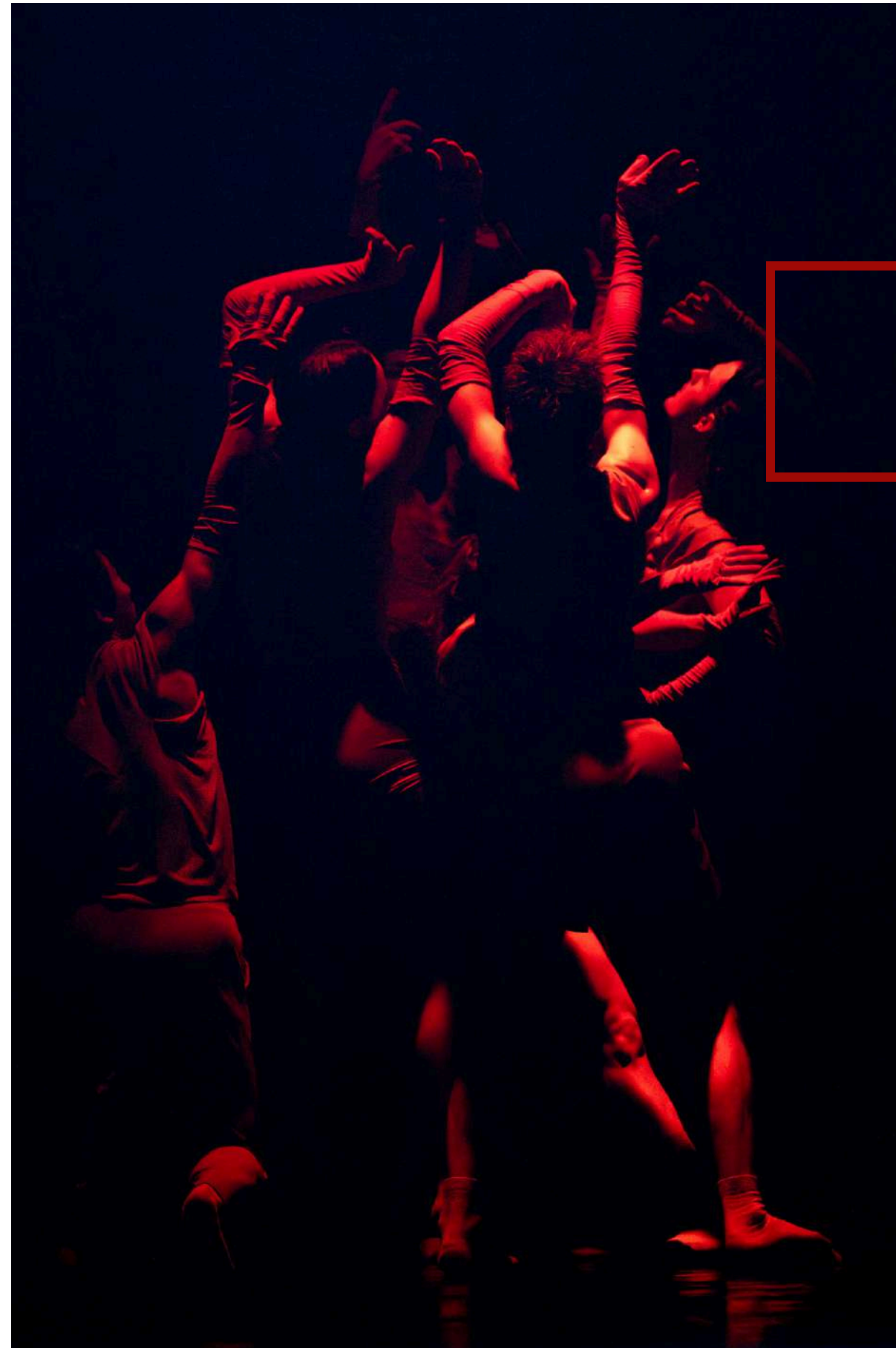
What is contemporary dance?

Talk with your classmates about what you know (or think you know) about contemporary dance. **What makes it different from ballet, hip-hop, or modern dance?**

WHAT TO WATCH

DURING THE SHOW

While watching, observe with all your senses.
Here are some guiding questions and things to notice:



MOVEMENT

- Are the dancers **moving together or individually?**
- Do the movements **feel calm or chaotic?**
- Are the dancers using **gestures you recognize** (like fighting, reaching, running)?
- How do the dancers **use space**—are they grounded or flying through the air?





SOUND & MUSIC

- What **kind of music** do you hear (beats, silence, voices)?
- How does the music **make you feel**?
- Do the dancers move **with the music or against it**?
- How does Amos Ben-Tal's music **shape your experience** of the piece?

Suggested activity:

Listen to two excerpts -

Burn Baby, Burn EXCERPT #1 by Amos Ben-Tal

Burn Baby, Burn EXCERPT #2 by Amos Ben-Tal

- How does your **body want to move** to each?
- What **emotions** do the different tempos create in you?

DESIGN

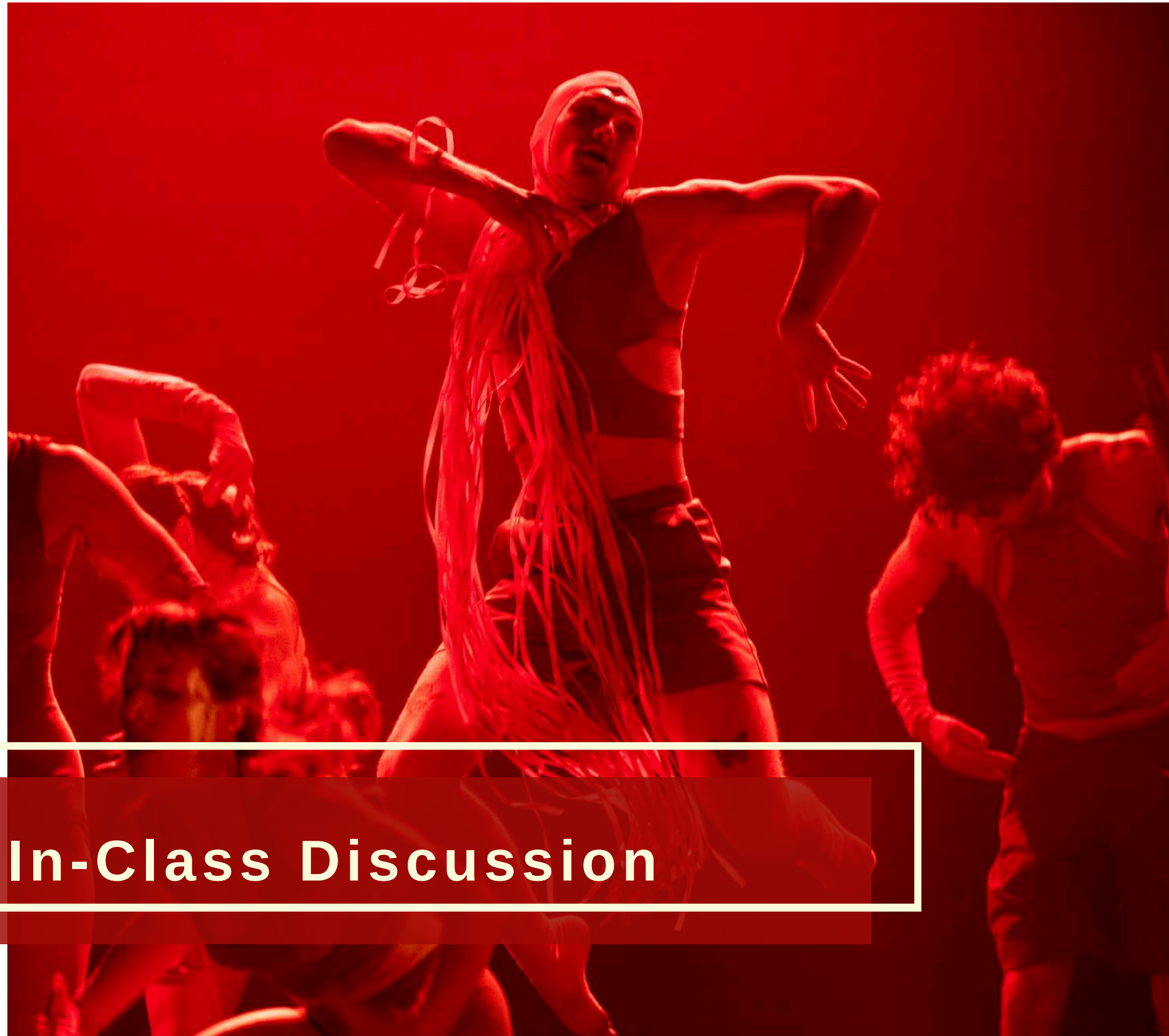
- How do the lights change the mood?
- What are the costumes like—do they help tell a story or set a tone?
- Is there any added scenography? How is it used?

THEMES

- What emotions did I feel?
- Did anything remind me of protests, resistance, fire, climate change, or celebration?
- If the dancers could speak, what would they be saying?



AFTER THE SHOW



In-Class Discussion

- What part of the show *stayed with you* the most? Why?
- Did anything confuse you? *What do you think it meant?*
- What does *“Burn Baby, Burn”* mean to you after seeing the performance?



CREATIVE WRITING

Write a **short journal** entry
beginning with:

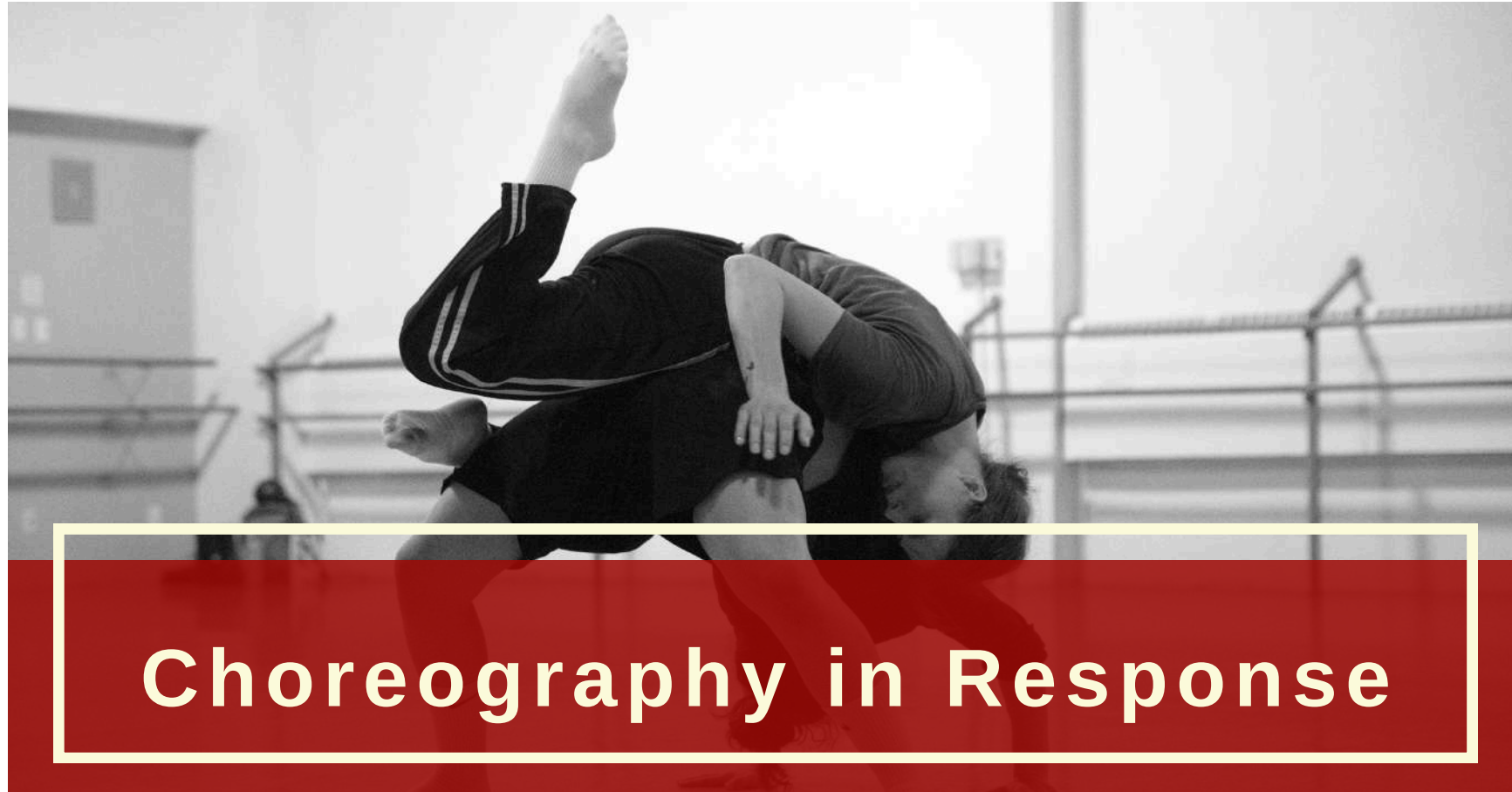
“During the performance, I felt...”

“The movement reminded me of...”

“If I had to describe the piece in one
word, it would be...”



GO DEEPER – OPTIONAL CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES



Choreography in Response

Pick one emotion from the show (rage, joy, sorrow, resistance) and work in small groups to create a short dance or gesture sequence that expresses that feeling.

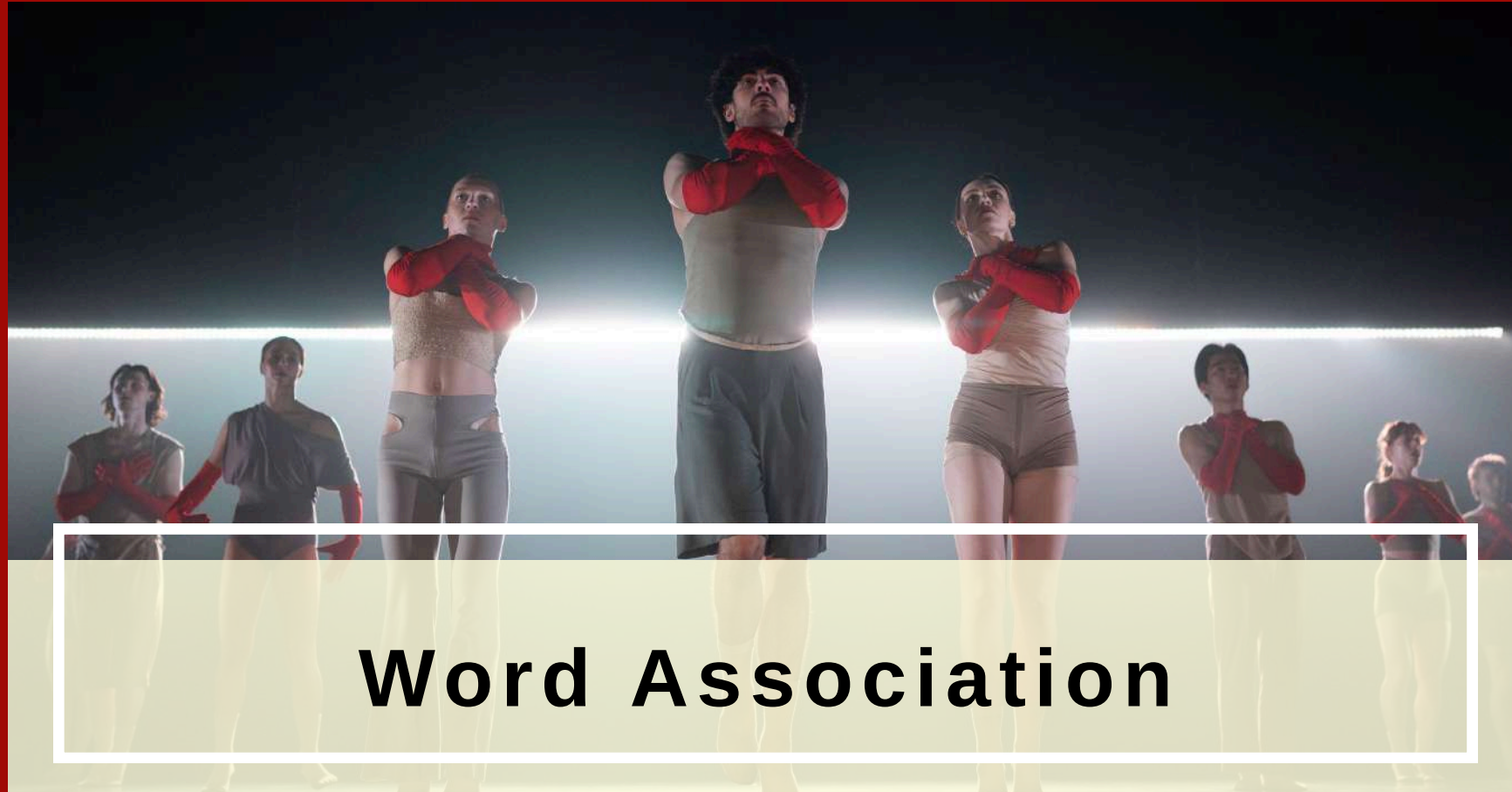


Create a Review

Imagine you're a journalist writing a review. Include:

- A title for your article
- A summary of what you saw
- Your emotional response
- Whether you'd recommend it to others and why

MORE ACTIVITIES...



Word Association

After the show, write down the first words that come to mind when you think of the performance (for example: colours, feelings, actions, images). Share in pairs or small groups. This activity is designed for younger audiences to express impressions without needing to write a full review.



Pop & Protest

Research a protest song, street dance style, or political artwork. Compare how that piece and *Burn Baby, Burn* use art to explore power, voice, or identity.



ABOUT CÔTÉ DANSE

Côté
DANSE

Côté Danse burst onto the Canadian dance scene in 2019, thanks to the collaboration between Choreographer Guillaume Côté and Producer Etienne Lavigne. Since then, they have been actively presenting a range of original works, films, and immersive dance experiences.

Under the artistic direction of Guillaume Côté, Côté Danse establishes a unique vision, combining classical dance knowledge with captivating geometries and intense human connections.

Their style is characterized by contemporary lines, sleek contours, and refined athleticism, creating a distinct and dynamic aesthetic.

Through collaborations with a diverse group of designers, artists, and partners such as Robert Lepage, Mirari Studios, and Son Lux, Côté Danse has successfully produced four full-length productions. These creations have garnered significant attention, with over 180 performances in more than 35 cities.



THE TEAM

Creator + Choreographer - Guillaume Côté

Composer - Amos Ben-Tal

Costume Designer - Yso South

Lighting Designer - Simon Rossiter

Stage Manager - Jennifer Lee

Creative Assistant - Anisa Tejpar

Producer - Etienne Lavigne

Dancers:

Demetri Apostolopoulos, Jessica Germano, Griffen Grice, Martha Hart, Kevin Lau, Willem Sadler, Katherine Semchuk, Evan Webb, Carleen Zouboules

Photos - Fran Chudnoff, Sasha Onyshchenko + Aidan Tooth



THE SUPPORTERS

La Fondation
Emmanuelle Gattuso

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Metropolitan
University

capas

FINAL THOUGHT

Dance is not just entertainment—it's a form of communication and a mirror of society. ***Burn Baby, Burn*** asks us to witness bodies in motion burning with purpose. What did it ignite in you?

