



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

DANSER JOE* at *CORPS REBELLES / REBEL BODIES

Montreal, March 10th, 2015 – The Fondation Jean-Pierre Perreault (FJPP) is pleased to invite you to *Danser Joe*, a unique participatory experience inspired by the seminal work of Jean-Pierre Perreault (1947-2002), which will take place during the international exhibition *Corps rebelles / Rebel Bodies* at the Musée de la civilisation, 85 Dalhousie Street, Quebec, from March 11th, 2015 to February 14th, 2016.

Created by Moment Factory, with the close collaboration of the FJPP, *Danser Joe* is an invitation to experience *Joe*, a masterpiece of Quebec contemporary dance. Initially created in 1983 and remounted several times up until 2004, with the work *Joe*, Jean-Pierre Perreault evokes the sense of anonymity in the collective as much as he does the singularity and solitude of the individual, developing the parameters that are key markers of his work: namely how the performer's movement constitutes an integral part of the music and soundscape and how the pressing weight of the body is itself emblematic of the human condition.

Guided by the voice of Ginelle Chagnon (one of Perreault's closest collaborators), visitors to *Danser Joe* are invited to don the iconic *Joe* costume – boots, felt hat and overcoat – while moving through an environment of shadow and light. Paying close attention to the silence, the slowness of gestures, or the pace of the movement, participants experience the choreography through listening to their bodies and their attentive presence to others. After the dance segment, the "studio" transforms into an immersive environment where multiple screens project both the professional performers of *Joe* as well as the choreographer and his close collaborators. *Joe* effectively surrounds the viewer with the haunting rhythms and profound sensibility of Jean-Pierre Perreault, evoking, among other things, the importance of memory and the unconscious as sources of creativity.

With *Danser Joe* the Musée de la civilisation embodies the intangible heritage of dance while paying tribute to Jean-Pierre Perreault, a choreographer who has profoundly influenced contemporary dance in Quebec. By offering such a temporal and subjective experience to the visitor, *Danser Joe* contributes to keeping the memory of dance alive in our collective history.

The Fondation, whose mission is actively engaged in the validation and transmission of Quebec's contemporary dance heritage, has also contributed to the *Memory* section of this exhibition. A variety of notation workbooks and artifacts from the Jean-Pierre Perreault archival materials now held at the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec will be on display, as well as the choreographic 'tool kit' providing comprehensive documentation on Paul-André Fortier's *Bras de plomb*. A choreographic tool kit brings together the various components needed to remount a work and to assure its continued transmission. These include elements that reveal the key meanings behind the work and those necessary for its communication and reconstruction: production design notebook, lighting designs, costume specifications, as well as various recordings of the work and interviews with the choreographer and dancers.

The Fondation Jean-Pierre Perreault would like to thank the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, The Canada Council for the Arts and the Conseil des arts de Montréal for their financial support.

Source : Lise Gagnon, Director General

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