

**LES PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL 2014
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WINNERS**

**CHOREOGRAPHERS MEG STUART (UNITED STATES, EUROPE) AND BENOÎT LACHAMBRE (QUEBEC)
ALONG WITH DANCER CAROL PRIEUR (QUEBEC) RECEIVE HONOURS AND MONETARY REWARDS AT
THE 2014 PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL**



Montreal, December 3, 2014 – The PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL (PDM) announced the recipient of the GRAND PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL 2014 at a ceremony held in the Espace culturel Georges-Émile-Lapalme at Place des Arts. On the same occasion, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ) awarded the PRIX DU CALQ – MEILLEURE ŒUVRE CHORÉGRAPHIQUE DE LA SAISON ARTISTIQUE 2013-2014, and the Regroupement québécois de la danse (RQD) rounded off the event by awarding the first PRIX DU RQD – INTERPRÊTE.

The ceremony, presided over by Danièle Henkel, was held in the presence of Marie Chouinard, president and founder of the PDM; Sylvie Cordeau, vice-president, philanthropy and sponsorships at QUÉBECOR ; Stéphan La Roche, president and general director of the CALQ, Lorraine Hébert, executive director of the RQD, Marie-Christine Cojocar, executive director of the Caisse de la Culture, PDM's partners, numerous personalities, and award recipients. Tribute was also paid to Marcel Côté, who died suddenly last spring, for his generosity and his commitment to the PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL.

LE GRAND PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL 2014 PRESENTED BY QUÉBECOR

American choreographer and dancer **Meg Stuart** won the GRAND PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL 2014. Accompanied by a grant of \$15,000 offered by QUÉBECOR and private donors, the prestigious award was presented to Ms Stuart by Sylvie Cordeau, vice-president, philanthropy and sponsorships at Quebecor.

Meg Stuart, who presented her work, *Built to Last*, at Festival TransAmériques (FTA) in May, 2014, is being honoured for her exceptional contribution to the advancement of dance. This artist, so representative of her generation, possesses boundless imagination. She surrounds herself with strong creative personalities, respecting their input and allotting them the space they need to give the best of themselves. The jury particularly wanted to acknowledge the contribution of her exploration of a different perception of the body, and her courage in creating works that disturb and disorient. Meg Stuart's strong link to Montreal and her recurrent presence there was also a decisive factor. A sought-after teacher and multi-disciplinary artist, she has been the subject of numerous academic papers and specialized publications that testify to the richness and resonance of her career as a dancer and prolific choreographer.

LE PRIX DU CALQ – MEILLEURE ŒUVRE CHORÉGRAPHIQUE DE LA SAISON ARTISTIQUE 2013-2014

This award, which comes with a \$10,000 grant, was presented by Stéphan La Roche to **Benoît Lachambre** for his creation *Prismes*, which premiered in October, 2013, at the Centennial Theatre in Sherbrooke, before performances at Agora de la danse in Montreal and in Ottawa in June, 2014.

In this work, Benoît Lachambre plunges the six Montréal Danse performers and the audience into a game of perceptions, scrutinizing the dancers' physical presence, and through the use of radiant luminosity, exploring how bodies furtively interact with each other. The choreographer heightens the presence of his performers by the interplay of vivid, fluctuating, jarringly contrasting colours, creating imbalance and time lags, intensifying illusion and distorting symmetry.

As he presented the prize, Stéphan La Roche of the CALQ stated: "I am proud to present this award to Benoît Lachambre, a fearless choreographer with an avant-garde vision. The members of the CALQ selection committee underlined the originality of *Prismes* and the work's skillful construction. The committee members were also won over by the mixed aesthetic of kitsch and classical, the mesmerizing lighting, and the dancers' responsive performances." For people who missed seeing this work earlier, it has been remounted in co-presentation with Danse Danse at the Cinquième salle of Place des Arts, where it will be performed until December 6.

LE PRIX DU RQD – INTERPRÈTE

The Regroupement québécois de la danse and the Caisse de la Culture awarded the very first PRIX DU RQD – INTERPRÈTE, accompanied by a grant of \$10,000, to **Carol Prieur**, an emblematic figure of Compagnie Marie Chouinard who enjoys a solid reputation on the national and international scene. Carol Prieur, currently on tour with Compagnie Marie Chouinard in France, conveyed her thanks on live. Choreographer and dance teacher Linda Rabin, and Nancy Prieur, Carol's mother, received the award on Carol's behalf. This year, RQD called on the PDM jury to select the prizewinner. Carol Prieur was an obvious choice, given her exceptional stage presence, extraordinary strength and profound understanding of the body and the works she dances. "The prize celebrates the unparalleled virtuosity of Carol Prieur and her rigorous artistic approach. It also recognizes her tireless commitment and immense generosity to the dance community and to the discipline as a whole," says RQD's executive director, Lorraine Hébert.

The PRIX DU RQD – INTERPRÈTE is being awarded for the first time this year, to mark the 30th anniversary of the RQD, an organization that long had the desire to publicly recognize the performers who connect with audiences, and through whom dance takes form and comes to life on stage.

LES PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL

Founded in 2011, PDM is a not-for-profit organization whose mandate is to promote Montreal as an international centre for dance creation and dissemination, and to highlight the dynamism of the people, companies, and institutions working in dance, specifically by discerning honourable distinctions and monetary rewards. In 2013-2014, the members of its board of directors are: Marie Chouinard, Anik Bissonnette, Sylvain Énard, Frédérick Gravel, Clothilde Cardinal, Paule Beaudry, Alix Laurent, Caroline Ohrt, and Bernard Lagacé. The 2014 jury is made up of the following professionals and specialists: Fabienne Cabado (journalist, mediator and cultural communicator), Kathy Casey (artistic director, Montréal Danse), Sophie Corriveau (dancer and choreographer), Michèle Fèbvre (assistant professor, Dance Department, UQAM), and Cathy Levy (executive producer, dance, National Arts Centre). The fact that over one hundred works/performances from here and elsewhere were eligible for the prizes testifies to the vitality of dance in Montreal.

- 30 -

Source : LES PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL
Josiane Héту : info@prixdeladanse.com

Média contacts : Bérubé & Geoffroy Communications
Benoit Geoffroy and Monique Bérubé
T 514 722 9888
C 514 585 3179
bgeoffroy@videotron.ca

