



Press Release
for immediate release

**PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL 2015
2015 PRIZE WINNERS**

Choreographers **Alain Platel** (Belgium), **Mélanie Demers**,
Aurélie Pedron, the dancer **Lucie Vigneault**
and the company **Zab Maboungou / Compagnie Danse Nyata Nyata**
honoured by the
PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL 2015

Montreal, 19 November 2015 – At a ceremony held today at City Hall, the PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL (PDM) presented the winners of this year's awards: the GRAND PRIX de la danse de Montréal 2015 presented by the City of Montreal and Québecor, the Prix INTERPRÊTE offered by the Regroupement québécois de la danse (RQD) and the Caisse de la Culture, the Prix DÉCOUVERTE de la danse presented by Agora de la danse and Tangente. In addition, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec presented the Prix du CALQ for best choreography in the 2014-15 season, and the Montreal Arts Council (MAC) bestowed the Prix de la Diversité culturelle en danse.

Danièle Henkel was honorary president of the ceremony, which was attended by Marie Chouinard, president and founder of PDM, Manon Gauthier, member of the municipal executive committee (culture, patrimoine, design, Espace pour la vie et statut de la femme), Sylvie Cordeau, vice-president, philanthropy and donations at Québecor, Lorraine Hébert, general manager of RQD, Marie-Christine Cojocar, general manager of the Caisse de la Culture, Francine Bernier, general and artistic director of Agora de la danse, Stéphane Labbé, general manager of Tangente, Marie Côté, chair of the CALQ board of directors and Christian O'Leary, director of communications and promotion at CALQ, and Nathalie Maillé, executive director of the MAC. Various PDM partners, well known personalities and the prize winners were also in attendance.

GRAND PRIX de la danse de Montréal, presented by the City of Montreal and Québecor

The choreographer **Alain Platel** was awarded the GRAND PRIX de la danse de Montréal 2015, which comes with a prize of \$22,500. Offered by the City of Montreal and Québecor, the prestigious award was given to the winner by Manon Gauthier, member of the municipal executive committee (culture, patrimoine, design, Espace pour la vie et statut de la femme) and Sylvie Cordeau, vice-president, philanthropy and donations at Québecor.

The jury stressed his considerable influence on contemporary dance and the persistent relevance of his work. Alain Platel, who presented his piece *Tauberbach* at the Festival TransAmérique (FTA) last May, has maintained a strong connection with Montreal for several years. The jury acknowledged the quality of his artistic work and his commitment to art and to Les ballets C de la B, a remarkable incubator of talent in Belgium. His great compassion and openness to the world make him a unique artist.

Previous winners of the award were:

2014 Meg Stuart

2013 Benoît Lachambre

2012 Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker

2011 Louise Lecavalier

Le Prix INTERPRÈTE, presented by the Regroupement québécois de la danse and the Caisse de la Culture

The Prix INTERPRÈTE, presented by the Regroupement québécois de la danse and the Caisse de la Culture, includes a prize of \$10,000. It was awarded to **Lucie Vigneault**, a dancer with an impressive career whose performances this year were quite remarkable. The jury noted her strong, charismatic stage presence, her intensity, her precise style, fiery spirit and volcanic energy. A very versatile performer, Lucie Vigneault has always been actively involved in creating new works, collaborating with a great number of Quebec choreographers. Jury members recognized the strength and courage of a dancer who persists as a freelance, independent artist, and admired the intelligence of her performances in service to works by several Quebec choreographers. The award was presented by Lorraine Hébert, general manager of RQD and Marie-Christine Cojocar, general manager of the Caisse de la Culture.

The first recipient of the award in 2014 was Carol Prieur.

Le Prix DÉCOUVERTE de la danse de Montréal, presented by Agora de la danse and Tangente

A new award this year, the Prix DÉCOUVERTE de la danse de Montréal, presented by Agora de la danse and Tangente, is accompanied by a prize of \$5000. The recipient was **Aurélié Pedron**, who stands out for the impressive content of her dance pieces. An artist through and through, she also works with disadvantaged youth and is deeply committed to social issues. Members of the jury also noted that her piece *Entre* was a very moving experience for the audience. It was presented in December 2014 and in January, March and May 2015 by Tangente at the Monument National. The project took a very special look at just what live performance can be, and revealed a unique, sensitive artist. The award was presented by Francine Bernier, general and artistic director of Agora de la danse and Stéphane Labbé, general manager of Tangente.

Le Prix du CALQ pour la meilleure oeuvre chorégraphique

The award and a purse of \$10,000 went to **Mélanie Demers** for her piece **WOULD**. The result of an experiment with the company Firstthingsfirst, it began as a short version presented in Toronto in 2013. *WOULD* was then revised and expanded for shows in Montreal at Usine C in April 2015. The members of the CALQ selection committee were impressed by the originality and audacity of this work and its judicious blend of text and movement. In it Mélanie Demers asserts her unique and striking style. She directed the dancers meticulously to achieve a dazzling performance. Although rich in shrewd reflections on the human condition and its gloomy future, the piece is also imbued with effervescent humour. The award was presented by Marie Côté, chair of the CALQ board of directors.

Previous winners of the award were:

2014 Benoît Lachambre, for *Prismes*

2013 Daniel Léveillé, for *Solitudes solo*

2012 Marie Chouinard, for *LE NOMBRE D'OR (LIVE)*

Le Prix de la Diversité culturelle en danse, presented by the Montreal Arts Council

A new award this year presented by the Montreal Arts Council, the Prix de la Diversité culturelle en danse is accompanied by a prize of \$10,000. The recipient was Zab Maboungou/Compagnie Danse Nyata Nyata for the exceptional quality of the dance and music pieces produced by a pioneer of contemporary African dance. The choreographer, intellectual, researcher and performer Zab Maboungou places great importance on transmitting her knowledge by using her incomparable skills as a teacher of African dance. The jury praised her unfailing commitment and contributions to cultural diversity, her keen political analyses and her extensive knowledge of the issues facing dance, art and culture. She received the award from Nathalie Maillé, general manager of the Montreal Arts Council.

PDM Jury

The 2014-15 jury consisted of the following professionals: **Fabienne Cabado** (journalist and cultural consultant), **Kathy Casey** (artistic director of Montréal Danse), **Benoît Lachambre** (dancer, choreographer and artistic director of Par B.L.eux), **Cathy Levy** (dance producer at the National Arts Centre) and **David Rancourt** (choreographer and dancer). Over 100 dance presentations from here and elsewhere were considered for the awards, a clear indication of the vitality of dance in Montreal.

Established in 2011 by the choreographer **Marie Chouinard**, president of the PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL, the event is an occasion to applaud the excellent work of dance artists who presented shows on Montreal stages **between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015**, and to reaffirm the dynamism of Montreal as a dance capital, as well as its artistic profile on the international stage.

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