WINNERS OF THE 2016 PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL

Édouard Lock wins the **GRAND PRIX**
Choreographer **Daina Ashbee** is a **double award-winner,**
alongside choreographer **Roger Sinha**, dancer **Sophie Corriveau,**
and cultural manager **Gilles Savary**

Montreal, November 15, 2016 – The PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL (PDM) today announced the winners of the following prizes: the 2016 GRAND PRIX de la danse de Montréal, presented by the City of Montreal and Québecor; the Prix INTERPRÈTE, offered by the Regroupement québécois de la danse (RQD) and Caisse Desjardins de la Culture; the Prix DÉCOUVERTE, awarded by Agora de la danse and Tangente; and the Prix GESTIONNAIRE CULTUREL, presented by Diagramme – gestion culturelle. In addition, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec awarded the Prix du CALQ for Best Choreography during the 2015-2016 season, and the Conseil des arts de Montréal (CAM) presented the Cultural Diversity Prize in Dance.

Presided over by Honorary Chair Geneviève Guérard, and hosted by Anik Bissonnette, a member of PDM's Board of Directors, the ceremonies took place in the presence of: Marie Chouinard, Chair of the Board of Directors and founder of PDM; Chantal Rossi, Associate Councillor – Culture, Heritage and Design, City of Montreal; Sylvie Cordeau, Vice-president, Philanthropy and Sponsorships, Québecor; Fabienne Cabado, Executive Director of the Regroupement québécois de la danse; Marie-Christine Cojocaru, General Manager, Caisse Desjardins de la Culture; Francine Bernier, Executive and Artistic Director of Agora de la danse; Stéphane Labbé, Executive Director, Tangente; Louis Lehoux, Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Directors, Diagramme; Marie Côté, Chair of the Board of Directors, CALQ; Nathalie Maillé, Executive Director, CAM; Caroline Lussier, Head of the Dance Section, Canada Council for the Arts; as well as the event's partners, candidates and numerous personalities from the arts community.

The 2016 GRAND PRIX de la danse de Montréal, presented by Québecor and the City of Montreal

Choreographer **Édouard Lock** was awarded the 2016 GRAND PRIX de la danse de Montréal. With its **$25,000** purse offered by Québecor and the City of Montreal, this prestigious prize was presented to the artist by Sylvie Cordeau, Vice-President, Philanthropy and Sponsorships at Québecor, and Chantal Rossi, Associate Councillor, Culture, Heritage and Design at the City of Montreal.

In making its selection, the jury recognized not only the remarkable career of one of the leading figures of contemporary dance, whose bold and constantly evolving choreographies and trailblazing cinematic works have stood the test of time, but also his considerable artistic influence. By opening the door to new audiences, he aroused a passion for dance and influenced career choices, while sparking a revolution in the world of ballet. Last spring, *The Seasons,* choreographed by Édouard Lock for the São Paulo Companhia de Dança, was presented in Montreal, in the Danse Danse series.

Marie Côté, Chair of CALQ's Board of Directors, took this opportunity to award Édouard Lock his insignia of the Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec.

Previous winners include:
2015 - Alain Platel
2014 - Meg Stuart
2013 - Benoît Lachambre
2012 - Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker
2011 - Louise Lecavalier

The 2016 Prix INTERPRÈTE, presented by the Regroupement québécois de la danse and Caisse Desjardins de la Culture

The **$10,000** Prix INTERPRÈTE, presented by the Regroupement québécois de la danse and Caisse Desjardins de la Culture, was awarded to **Sophie Corriveau**. The jury hailed the longevity of her career, her commitment to the community, ability to explore new avenues, and contributions to teaching. Her creative force as a dancer is truly unique. The originality of her project *Nous (ne) sommes (pas) tous des danseurs,* presented at Agora de la danse, also strongly impressed the jury. The award was presented to Sophie Corriveau by Fabienne Cabado, Executive Director of RQD, and Marie-Christine Cojocaru, General Manager of Caisse Desjardins de la Culture.

The previous winners were Carol Prieur and Lucie Vigneault in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

The Prix DÉCOUVERTE, presented by Agora de la danse and Tangente

The Prix DÉCOUVERTE de la danse de Montréal, presented by Agora de la danse and Tangente, accompanied by a **$5,000** purse and **one-week creation residency,** was awarded to artist-choreographer-dancer **Daina Ashbee** for *Unrelated,* performed at La Chapelle Scènes Contemporaines. The jury was struck by the depth of Daina Ashbee's insights and powers of expression, her acuteness of vision, maturity beyond her years, judicious selection of collaborators, boldness and inventiveness. The

award was presented to Daina Ashbee by Francine Bernier, Executive and Artistic Director of Agora de la danse, and Stéphane Labbé, Executive Director of Tangente.

Aurélie Pedron was the first winner of this prize, awarded for the first time in 2015.

The 2016 Prix GESTIONNAIRE CULTUREL, presented by Diagramme – gestion culturelle

Gilles Savary, Executive Director of Fortier-Danse-Création, became the first winner of this **$5,000** prize. It was presented to him by Louis Lehoux, Director of Administrative and Financial Services at Cirque Éloize and a board member of Diagramme. In making this selection, Diagramme – gestion culturelle recognized a high-calibre cultural manager who has been unwaveringly committed to a unique artist, providing invaluable support for the artistic projects of Paul-André Fortier. With his generosity, tenacity and exemplary involvement in the dance community, Gilles Savary is a model for young people aspiring to a career in cultural management.

Prix du CALQ for Best Choreographic Work

This $**10,000** prize was awarded to **Daina Ashbee** for *When the Ice Melts, Will We Drink the Water?*, a choreographic installation created in collaboration with dancer Esther Gaudette and composer Jean-François Blouin. It was presented at La Chapelle Scènes Contemporaines, closing the festival RAOTIHÓN:TSA – Focus on First Nations' Creation.

The CALQ selection committee was strongly impressed by this work, an intelligent and coherent exploration of complex subjects—such as female sexuality, Aboriginal identity and climate change—with a radical approach that transcends simple provocation. A double award-winner this year, Daina Ashbee received this second prize from Marie Côté, Chair of the Board of Directors of CALQ.

Previous winners include:
2015 - Mélanie Demers for WOULD
2014 - Benoît Lachambre for *Prismes*
2013 - Daniel Léveillé for *Solitudes solo*
2012 - Marie Chouinard for *LE NOMBRE D'OR (LIVE)*

Cultural Diversity Prize in Dance, presented by the Conseil des arts de Montréal

The **$10,000** Cultural Diversity Prize in Dance was awarded to **Roger Sinha** in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the development of the discipline, the originality of his approach, and his steadfast commitment to fellow artists and citizens. The CAM jury celebrated 25 years of creation by paying tribute to the lifetime achievements of Roger Sinha, whose works often reflect issues of diversity, demonstrating his multi-faceted talents as choreographer, dancer, teacher, mediator and video artist. The prize was presented to Roger Sinha by Nathalie Maillé, Executive Director of the Conseil des arts de Montréal.

Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts
Caroline Lussier, Head of the Dance Section at the Canada Council for the Arts, took this opportunity to present **Marie Chouinard** with the prestigious Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts. This annual prize recognizes the highest level of artistic excellence and distinguished career of a professional Canadian artist working in music, theatre or dance.

PDM Jury
The 2015-2016 jury was composed of the following dance professionals: **Fabienne Cabado**, a journalist, cultural mediator and communicator, currently Executive Director of the Regroupement québécois de la danse; **Jasmine Catudal**, Co-director of OFFTA; **Danièle Desnoyers**, Artistic Director and choreographer of Le Carré des Lombes; **Marie-Hélène Falcon**, founder and former Artistic Director of Festival TransAmériques; and **David Rancourt**, a choreographer and dancer.

Created in 2011 by choreographer **Marie Chouinard**, the PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTRÉAL recognizes the excellence of dance artists whose productions were presented in Montreal **between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016**. The prizes also serve to reaffirm Montreal's role as a vibrant dance capital and to raise its international profile.

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Source: PDM, Sarah Beauséjour info@prixdeladanse.com

Media:
Bérubé & Geoffroy Communications
Benoit Geoffroy and Monique Bérubé
514-585-3179 bgeoffroy@icloud.com

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