

Les Ballets Jazz De Montréal

The **internationally renowned** dance company celebrates **45 years** of **distinctive ballet** with **stylistic diversity**.



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TUES
27 FEB
7:30PM

Dance Series
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Les Ballets Jazz De Montréal

DANCE SERIES

Emerging from a collaboration between Geneviève Salbaing, Eva Von Gency and Eddy Toussaint in 1972, BJM - Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal - is a repertory company that creates, produces and presents contemporary dance performances based on the technique, rigour and esthetics of classical ballet. Its work consistently appears on local, national and international stages.

The company offers its artists high-level professional ballet training and gives internationally renowned choreographers the freedom to develop their artistic process in keeping with BJM's identity. In doing so, the company is able to create an exclusive repertoire that is accessible to all. As a leading ambassador of Quebec dance across the globe, BJM is synonymous with flawless

execution. Its distinctive style is at once artistic, sexy, explosive, original and accessible.

Since being named artistic director in 1998, Louis Robitaille has reoriented the company toward audiences open to new choreographic forms. He has linked BJM with rising names in the world of contemporary dance, such as Crystal Pite, Aszure Barton and others. The company also regularly collaborates with internationally renowned choreographers, including Mauro Bigonzetti, Andonis Foniadakis, Itzik Galili, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Barak Marshall, Benjamin Millepied, Rodrigo Pederneiras, Ihsan Rustem and Cayetano Soto. In recent years, the company's artistic direction has favoured multidisciplinary creations that blend ballet with other artistic disciplines such as theatre, video and music.



© Photo: Svetla Atanasova
Artists : All artists

Program

CASUALTIES OF MEMORY (35 min)

The opening image of Itzik Galili's latest choreographic feast explodes traditional societal notions of Western patriarchy. Men and women are not to be regarded as separate beings. Instead, Galili constructs a sensual environment in which man supports woman, woman supports man, allowing each other to be on and off balance, with perfect agency. They know... They will be here to catch one another.

In perfect symbiosis, joy and passionate energy emerge from the dancers and from the rush of the darbuka percussive music played by Les Frères Grand. A blend of ethnic and contemporary dance movement, full of curvilinear and visceral power, emphasizes gender equality. Woman as man. Man as woman. Dance at the extremity of body limits. In this moment, the soul collides and the mind forgets, if only for a moment, that there are differences that divide us.

MONO LISA (8 min)

Mono Lisa, choreographed by Itzik Galili, is danced to sounds based on the noises of a typewriter. It opens on several rows of spots in steel frames, casting a bold light on the dark stage, creating the atmosphere of a factory plant. In these bizarre spatial surroundings, filled with sounds and visions of iron and steel, a couple of dancers in rust-colored costumes twist and turn, twine and entwine in extraordinary convolutions and rapid pas de deux, with the ballerina always landing on pointe. The incredible acrobatics are executed with breathtaking ease.

O BALCAO DE AMOR (23 min)

After a trip to Cuba, Itzik Galili was inspired by this timeless music to create an energetic piece. It is an encounter that Galili infuses with myriad comedic sparks, loose, sexy and full of lovely absurdity. "Sometimes, as grown-ups, we encounter seemingly trivial details that bring us back to our youth and its hopes. Pérez Prado music, with its lightness, gives me a deep sense of simple joy. It makes me happy to see how the young generation relates to it, and to see the different layers of feelings it awakens in them: Joy, laughs, but also a profound smile..." - Itzik Galili

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PARTRIDGE HALL

REGULAR: \$45

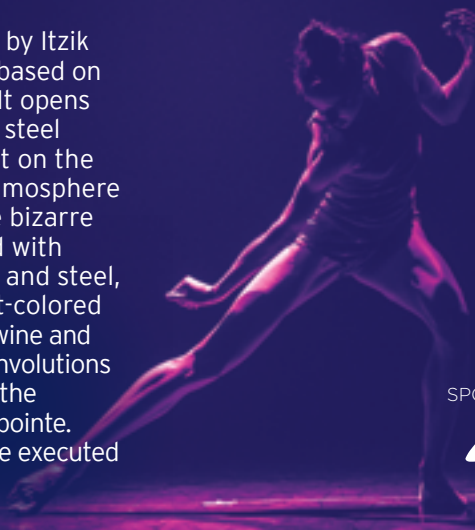
MEMBER: \$38

COLLEGE/UNI/CHILD: \$25

Tues 27 Feb 7:30PM

© Photo: Thierry Du Bois -

Cosmos Image Artist: Kennedy Kraeling



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Every piece created for BJM remains faithful to an aesthetic exerting a positive influence. With accessibility and quality as its key values, the company has managed to incorporate enjoyment into creations that are strong, expressive and demanding. The distinctive personality and high calibre of its performers ensure the company's sustained success and reputation. Through its many productions, performances and educational activities, BJM is able to encourage discovery, stimulate imagination and democratize dance, all while sharing with local and international audiences its deep passion for this discipline. Having presented more than 2,000 performances for over 2 million fans in 67 countries, BJM is a true ambassador of Canadian dance and artistic vitality across the globe.

In 2016, BJM and its artistic director were awarded the Rideau Hommage prize in recognition of the company's reputation and continued presence on the Québec stage.

ARTISTIC TEAM

Artistic Director Louis Robitaille.

Artistic Coordinator Céline Cassone.

Ballet Master Luis Rolando Torres.

Principal Dancers Céline Cassone, Alexander Hille

Dancers Brandi Baker, Yosmell Calderon, Jeremy Coachman, Kennedy Henry, Kennedy Kraeling, Pier-Loup Lacour, Andrew Mikhael, Benjamin Mitchell, Saskya Pauzé-Bégin, Mark Sampson, Izabela Szyllinska, Ashley Werhun.

ÉQUIPE ADMINISTRATIVE / ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Deputy General Manager Marie-Joëlle Tremblay.

Administrative Director Alexandre Colpron.

Production Director Gildas Percevault.

Communications and Fundraising Manager Alexia Deruard.

Administrative Assistant Marie Moïny.

Production Assistant Margot Point

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PROGRAM

CASUALTIES OF MEMORY - ITZIK GALILI

Choreography Itzik Galili

Music Les Frères Grand featuring the percussionist Joseph Khoury

Lighting Design Itzik Galili

Light Technician Daniel Ranger

Costumes Designer Itzik Galili

Costumes Maker Anne-Marie Veevaete

World Premiere: February 2018, Boston, United States

Length - 35 minutes

****INTERMISSION****

MONO LISA - ITZIK GALILI

Artistic Direction Louis Robitaille

Choreography Itzik Galili

Assistant to choreographer Elisabeth Gibiat

Dancers Céline Cassone and Alexander Hille

Music Thomas Höfs with Itzik Galili

Lighting Design Itzik Galili

Light Technical Daniel Ranger

Costumes Design Natasja Lansen

Costumes Production Anne-Marie Veevaete

World Premiere: December 2015, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Length - 8 minutes

This ballet benefits from the precious support of the André Charron Family

O BALCAO DE AMOR - ITZIK GALILI

Artistic Direction Louis Robitaille

Choreography Itzik Galili

Music Pérez Prado

Lighting Design Itzik Galili

Light Technical Daniel Ranger

Costumes Design Itzik Galili

Costumes Production Anne-Marie Veevaete

World Premiere: September 2016, L'Assomption, QC, Canada

Length - 25 minutes

© **Cover Photo:** Leda & St.Jacques

Artist: Céline Cassone | **Graphic design:** Paprika.com

BIOGRAPHIES

ITZIK GALILI (CHOREOGRAPHER)

Born in Israel, Itzik Galili danced in Bat-Dor Dance Company, Batsheva II, and in Batsheva Dance Company, where he started choreographing. Robert Cohan, artistic advisor for the Batsheva Dance Company and artistic director of The London Contemporary Dance Company, encouraged him to attend the Gulbenkian International Course for Professional Composers and Choreographers in the UK. In 1991, Galili moved to The Netherlands, and formed his own project-based company in Amsterdam. His controversial piece *The Butterfly Effect* won the Public Prize at the International Competition for Choreographers in Groningen and became his breakthrough piece that earned him international recognition. In 1997, the ministry of culture appointed him as Artistic Director of a newly founded dance company in Groningen: NND/Galili Dance which, under Galili's direction for more than 11 years, made a name for itself. In 1998 and 2001, Galili directed the Groningen International Competition for Choreographers. In 2009, Galili returned to Amsterdam as the co-founder and artistic director Dansgroep Amsterdam. Since 2011, Galili is a guest choreographer on the international dance scene.

Galili's work is striking in its ability to explore dance in a wide range of viewpoints, bypass our consciousness and stir our inner feelings. Weaving dreams and reality, past and present, Galili invites the audience to reflect about what remains hidden behind reality. He combines expressive movements with powerful or poetic images, often created by his own lighting designs, and transforms his experience and perception of the world into a performance that is universal and human. His constant and intensive research into the interaction of movements with texts, projected or spoken - as in the solo piece *Little Tiny Bite* - makes him a very unique choreographer on the international scene. Galili's movement vocabulary is very energetic, sometimes even acrobatic. But he is not only interested in the physical possibilities of the dancers. With very subtle, meaningful gestures, he is able to communicate an expression or a change in relationship between people. He combines fear and power, loneliness and comfort, cruelty and tenderness, seriousness and humor, struggle and happiness, emotions and abstraction - not as contradictions, but as possibilities. He challenges the dancers to go beyond their borders by acting, using their voices, using their bodies as percussion instruments, playing instruments they have never played before, and by questioning them on what they think about their own possibilities as dancers and as human beings, pushing them to be creative individuals and independent thinkers.

ARTISTS

CÉLINE CASSONE (PRINCIPAL ARTIST)

Born in France, Céline began studying dance as a child at the Conservatoire National de Danse d'Avignon. In 1993, she joined the Deutsch Oper Berlin for one year and then, the following season, the Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe for four years. She then enrolled in the Béjart Ballet Lausanne, under the direction of Maurice Béjart, where she performed many solo roles. It was also as a soloist that she joined, in 1999, the Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève. Céline has had the opportunity to take part in many innovative contemporary productions while also working with internationally renowned choreographers. She performed in several international galas and was the recipient, in 2006, of the « Étoile de Ballet 2000 » dance award and in 2010, she received the «Premio Asti Danza» dance award. Deciding to acquire the freedom to accept a variety of new challenges, Céline became an independent artist in 2008. She was part of Morphoses, Christopher Wheeldon's company, and she worked with choreographer Benjamin Millepied (Dances Concertantes). She joined BJM in 2008 as principal artist and she is the artistic coordinator since 2009.

ALEXANDER HILLE (PRINCIPAL ARTIST)

Born in Minnesota, Alexander Hille began dancing at the age of eight. Upon graduating from the Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists in 2007, he was accepted to the Juilliard School in New York City. While attending Juilliard (graduated 2011), Alexander was privileged to learn the works of some of the most innovative and prominent figures in dance, including: José Limon, Merce Cunningham, Ohad Naharin, Mark Morris, Larry Keigwin, Stijn Celis, Benjamin Millepied, Bronislava Nijinska, and Eliot Feld. (Alexander was the recipient of the Paul Taylor Scholarship in 2011). He has spent summers working to expand his artistic horizons, by training at the Juilliard School, Springboard Danse Montréal, and Move in Nederlands Dans Theater. Throughout his time at these various programs he learned the repertory of Crystal Pite, Jiri Kylián, and Paul Lightfoot & Sol Leon. In December of 2013, Alex made his off-Broadway debut in the critically acclaimed *Nutcracker Rouge* with Company XIV (Austin McCormick). Alexander joined Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal (BJM) in the Spring of 2011, and was promoted to principal in 2015.

BRANDI BAKER

Brandi began her dance training studying a variety of disciplines. Earlier on in her career she focused more on the commercial industry and this took her to California where she signed to her agency. After some time there her passion brought her to Vancouver where she started training at Arts Umbrella under the guidance of Artemis Gordon. During this time she has been fortunate enough to have performed works by Cayetano Soto, Compagnie Marie Chouinard, Mauro Astolfi, Fernando Magadan, Azure Barton, Crystal Pite, Sharon Eyal, Jiri Kylián, William Forsythe, Gioconda Barbuto, James Kudelka, Leslie Telford, Wen Wei Wang and Mats Ek. After two years at Arts Umbrella she joined BJM in 2017.

YOSMELL CALDERON

Born in Russia, Yosmell graduated as a dancer and teacher of contemporary dance and folk dance from Cuba's National School of Dance in Havana in 2005, and also received a diploma from the National School of Arts in 2014. Yosmell has collaborated with outstanding figures in the world of dance such as Rafael Bonachela, Mats Ek, ItzikGalili, Carlos Junior Acosta, Jan Linkens, Juan Cuz and Ana Laguna. He has performed as a principal dancer in more than 22 works by Cuban and foreign choreographers, touring important festivals and theatre venues around the world. He is a choreographer for the Cuban National Ballet School and its performances at the International Ballet Festival of Havana and, thanks to his background in Olympic gymnastics, he also choreographs for circus performances. He joined BJM in July 2016.

JEREMY COACHMAN

Born and raised in Riviera Beach, Florida, he began his preliminary training at the Palm Beach Ballet Center, under the direction of Joan Miller for 6 years. While training, he worked and performed with members of Ballet Florida as well as other companies around the country. Jeremy spent 2 years training full-time with Ballet Florida where he performed full-length ballets such as *The Nutcracker*, *Copelia*, and *Cleopatra*, as well as appearing as a dancer in the Palm Beach Opera's production of *La Traviata* in 2007. He studied under the direction of Heather Lescaille and Tina Martin at the Florida Dance Conservatory in 2009 and graduated from the Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts in 2011 and became a finalist in the YoungArts National Foundation for Advancement of the Arts (NFAA) competition. Jeremy worked with performers and choreographers such as Desmond Richardson, Aubrey Lynch, Camille A. Brown, and Bill T. Jones. Jeremy graduated The Juilliard School with a BFA in dance, and started the adventure with BJM in 2015.

KENNEDY HENRY

Born in Ottawa, Kennedy started studying dance at Ecole superieure de ballet du Quebec when she was 14 years old. For the next six years she had the opportunity of working with many internationally renowned choreographers and dancers, such as Roberto Campanella, James Gregg, Eric Beauchesne and many others. In 2013, Kennedy won second place for her contemporary solo at the Youth American Grand Prix competition. She has also performed classical roles such as the Four Swans in Swan Lake and the grand pas de deux of Les Sylphides. Kennedy has worked with the company since May 2014.

KENNEDY KRAELING

Born in Vancouver, BC Canada in 1995, she began dancing at the Flora Pigeau Dance Academy where she had the opportunity to study RAD ballet and compete in local festivals. She had the honor of representing a local festival at the BC provincial championships at the age of 10. She began her formal training at age 11 in Toronto at Canada's National Ballet School under the tutelage and guidance of Mavis Staines, Deborah Hess, Carina Bomers, Laurel Toto, Jeremy Ransom and Martine Lamy. She moved back to Vancouver at 15 and began to train under Artemis Gordon at Arts Umbrella and in the Arts Umbrella Dance Company. Upon graduation she spent two years in the Arts Umbrella Graduate Program. During these two years she worked with on new and existing repertoire Lesley Telford, Crystal Pite, James Kudelka, Fernando Magadan, Gioconda Barbuto, Walter Matteini, Mauro Astolfi, Thomas Klein, Francesca Caroti and Shawn Hounsell. Over the years her training has been complimented by summer intensives such as SanFrancisco Conservatory of Dance and Alvin Ailey. She joined the company in 2015.

PIER-LOUP LACOUR

Pier-Loup graduated from École supérieure de ballet du Québec. During his training, he had the chance to attend an intensive workshop in Boston with two dancers from Boston Ballet. In 2013, At Toronto's Assemblée Internationale, he showed a pas de deux choreographed by James Gregg ; the event welcomed the most prestigious dance schools around the world. Pier-Loup was also soloist in an excerpt of Episodes de Balanchine in Montreal. He danced at La Grande Première des Futures Étoiles 2013, for the Fondation de la Place des Arts. He also worked with famous rehearsal directors and choreographers such as Kathryn Bennetts and David Dawson, through an intership in Germany. As a guest to Banff Art Center in Alberta, he danced ballets from Christopher Wheeldon and Toer Van Schayk in Dance Masters show. He joins Grands Ballets Canadiens in 2013-2014 for the pieces Casse-Noisette and Rodin/Claudel. For season 2014-2015, he had the opportunity of dancing on Christian Spuck, Didy Veldman, Mats Ek and Stephan Thoss, through his work with Grands Ballets Canadiens and dances with the company since 2015.

ANDREW MIKHAIEL

Andrew Mikhaiel, originally from Mississauga, Ontario, earned a BFA at Marymount Manhattan College, Class of 2017, under the direction of Katie Langan. During his tenure at MMC he danced in works choreographed by Paul Taylor, Aszure Barton, Alexandra Damiani, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Norbert De La Cruz III, Adam Barruch, Larry Keigwin, and Jo Strømgren. He performed at The Joyce Theater for the Martha Graham Company's University Partners Showcase, at the 92nd Street Y's Fridays at

Noon Series, and for the American Dance Guild. In his senior year, Andrew directed and organized a dance outreach program for NYC public schools, serving 240 3rd-5th graders. He was accepted to and attended Springboard Danse Montreal in the summer of 2016. Andrew is excited to be joining Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal for this new season.

BENJAMIIN MITCHELL

Born in Germany, Ben trained in London at the Royal Ballet's White Lodge and Upper School. He completed his last year of training at Elmhurst School, where he performed with the Birmingham Royal Ballet. After graduating in 2007, he joined the Northern Ballet where he performed many leading roles and worked with choreographers such as Wayne McGregor, Hanz van Manen and Cathy Marston. In 2013 he received the 'Outstanding Male Dancer' award from Dance Europe. On his departure from Northern Ballet in 2013, he joined Deborah Colker Dance Company in Rio de Janeiro where he performed in and around South America and danced at the FIFA World Cup final performance. In 2014 Ben joined Phoenix Dance Theatre where he danced for two years. As a teacher and assistant, he has taught and staged works for companies and schools in the United Kingdom and the United States. Ben begins his second season with BJM.

SASKYA PAUZÉ-BÉGIN

Saskya Pauzé-Bégin studied at the École supérieure de ballet du Québec from 2011 to 2014. She spent the past two summers at the Arts Umbrella summer Intensive workshop in Vancouver, and attended summer ballet classes in Berlin taught by William Forsythe, learning the repertoire of The Nutcracker – Claude Caron, Swan Lake – Taïna Morales, Balanchine (Diamonds and Episodes) – Josyane Sidimus, Seascape – Judith Marcuse, M.O.R. – Gioconda Barbuto, Hommage – Sophie Estel. She begins her first season with BJM in 2014 as the second recipient of the Eva von Gency Scholarship, which supports emerging young dancers in Quebec.

MARK SAMPSON

Originally from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Mark trained in the professional divisions of both the National Ballet School of Canada and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, as well as graduating with a BFA from the Julliard School, where he received the Martha Hill Prize for excellence and leadership in dance. He has performed works by Kyle Abraham, Danielle Agami, Brian Brooks, Camille Brown, Merce Cunningham, Sylvain Émard, José Limon, Fernando Melo, Jerome Robbins, Twyla Tharp and Kate Weare. In autumn 2015 Mark was selected to take part in the José Limon international dance festival at the Joyce Theater, where he performed Concerto Grosso, a Limon trio reconstructed by Risa Steinberg and originally created in 1945. He has also performed throughout New York City at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Guggenheim Museum and New York City Center. Mark joined BJM – Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal for his first season in 2016.

IZABELA SZYLINSKA

Izabela Szylińska, a native of Poland, trained at professional ballet school in Warsaw. In 2008, she won the 1st prize on International Ballet Competition "Gold Pointe Shoes" in Poland and received a prestigious scholarship from The Ministry of Culture for artistic achievement. She danced as a demi-soloist with Opera Nova in Bydgoszcz and in 2009 she joined Polish National Ballet under the direction of Krzysztof Pastor where she performed works by George Balanchine, Alexei Ratmansky, Patrice Bart, John Cranko, Krzysztof Pastor, Emanuel Gat and many others. Izabela moved to New York in August 2012 and soon started working with Stuart Loungway's Terra Firma Dance Theatre, Julia GleichDances, MorDance, Brooklyn Ballet, Ballet Verite, Thomas Ortiz Dance, Emery LeCrone Dance and Jérôme Bel. In 2014 she joined Armitage Gone! Dance with whom she performed at many prestigious venues in US and Europe. She had a pleasure of guesting with Aspen Santa Fe Ballet during their 2016 winter season. Besides dance Izabela appeared in few fashion campaigns and photo shoots for Barney's New York, Alexandra Grecco, Town and Country Magazine and at Sachin and Babi New York Fashion Week. She began her first season with BJM.

ASHLEY WERHUN

Ashley Werhun began her formal training in Edmonton, Alberta. Her training was supplemented by attending The National Ballet of Canada, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, The Banff Center, and The Juilliard School. Werhun later studied at The Alberta Ballet School and Alonzo King's LINES Ballet. Before joining Trey McIntyre Project in 2008, she performed with NorthWest Dance Project and Ballet British Columbia. She has had the privilege to perform the works of Lauri Stallings, Thaddeus Davis, Septime Weber, Alonzo King, Maurya Kerr, Yannis Adoniou, and Trey McIntyre. In six seasons with TMP, has inspired the creation of numerous new works and world premiers. As an Artist in Residence at St. Luke's Children's Hospital, she uses dance as therapy to promote joy and healing. She cherishes these experiences and finds inspiration in each moment. Ashley dances with the company since 2014.

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