

NEWS

For immediate release

ADRENALINE RUSH

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal performs
Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin's *Minus One*



Photo: John Hall

“Pure, incontestable pleasure ... A rare festive atmosphere ...
Beyond its apparent playfulness, Ohad Naharin's piece conjures up the power of ritual
– and it's this that ultimately raises the spirits. A welcome return.”

Le Devoir

Montréal, March 11, 2009 – The news is sure to cause a stir: Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin's *Minus One* is returning to Place des Arts for six nights only. Since its creation in 2002, this phenomenally successful performance, part of the Les Grands Ballets repertoire, has left critics and audiences gasping. An irresistibly joyous presentation to be seen and seen again, **May 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15, 2010**, at Théâtre Maisonneuve of Place des Arts.

***Minus One*, from wild expressionism to pure abstraction**

Minus One draws on seven of Naharin's previous works — *Zachacha*, *Sabotage Baby*, *Black Milk*, *Passomezzo*, *Anaphaza*, *Queens of Golub* and *Mabul* — to create a single work that's far beyond a collage. Complex, meticulously crafted, the ballet's component parts ingeniously interlock to produce what can only be called alchemy. In this explosive homage to dance and dancers, members of Naharin's troupe speak as part of the piece, each taking turns dancing a solo to a recording of their own voice in which they share personal anecdotes and describe their relationship to dance.

To a propulsive soundtrack that alternates between traditional and pop songs, baroque pieces, world rhythms and original compositions, 26 dancers perform with dazzling speed, jumping and twirling, pausing to give way to slower, hypnotic — but equally inspired — moves before resuming their infectious velocity. In a rare festive atmosphere, the dancers abandon themselves joyously to the dance, keeping the audience on the edge of their seats. Daringly orchestrated, their gestures are



by turns merry, contemplative, comical or perfectly synchronized, full of grace, agility and humour. *Minus One* highlights Naharin's extravagant energy, provocative and unpredictable choreography, and rich musical sensibility. "A marvellous evening where each dancer's personality and qualities are brought out by a choreographer who knows them very well and who, in his striking eclecticism, is able to move seamlessly from wild expressionism to pure abstraction." (Sonia Schoonejans, *Ballet 2000*, Paris)

Ohad Naharin

Adored by Montréal audiences, Naharin is a leading light of contemporary dance. The choreographer began his training as a dancer with Batsheva Dance Company. A year later at the invitation of Martha Graham, he came to New York City to join her company and continued training at the School of American Ballet. After a year with the Graham company, he continued his studies at the Juilliard School before going on to join the Maurice Béjart Company in Brussels for one season. He made his choreographic debut in 1980 at the Kazuko Hirabayashi studio in New York City.

Naharin performed as a dancer from 1980 to 1990, when he was appointed Artistic Director of Batsheva Dance Company. Though he stepped down from his post in 2003, he continues to work closely with the company, currently serving as resident choreographer. Naharin has received numerous awards and accolades for his work. The winner of two Bessie Awards in New York (one for *Naharin's Virus*, staged at Brooklyn Academy of Music in 2002, the other for *Anaphaza*, presented at Lincoln Center in 2003), he also received the prestigious Israel Prize in 2005. Naharin's works feature in the repertoires of such reputable companies as Nederlands Dans Theater, Frankfurt Ballet, Ballet de l'Opéra de Lyon, Ballet Nacional de España (Madrid), Cullberg Ballet and Opéra national de Paris. His works *Kaamos*, *Arbos*, *Perpetuum* and *Danz* are part of the repertoire of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal.

Minus One by Ohad Naharin

Performed by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal

May 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15, 2010, at 8 p.m.

Théâtre Maisonneuve OF Place des Arts

Pre-show talks will take place from 7 to 7:30 p.m. at Théâtre Maisonneuve prior to each performance.

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For more information on subscribing to Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, group rates and the many associated advantages, call **514 849-0269**, consult the seasonal brochure or visit **www.grandsballets.com**, where you'll also find information on shows, the company and its dancers.

Individual tickets go on sale on July 6 at Place des Arts, **514 842-2112** / **www.laplacedesarts.com**.

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