

NEWS

For immediate release

LES GRANDS BALLETS

G R A D I M I R P A N K O V
DIRECTEUR ARTISTIQUE | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SPECIAL EVENTS CONNECTED TO *RODIN/CLAUDEL* THE MUCH-ANTICIPATED BALLET BY PETER QUANZ, WHICH WILL LAUNCH THE 2011-2012 SEASON OF LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL

Montreal, September 19, 2011—Three special events have been scheduled to coincide with *Rodin/Claudel*, the sumptuous ballet created by Canadian choreographer Peter Quanz for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, to be presented at the Théâtre Maisonneuve from October 13 to 29.

1- Exchange of critical views: Hervé Courtain and Michel Poirier

Les Grands Ballets and DUCEPPE have undertaken an innovative event – facilitating a public exchange of critical views between Hervé Courtain, first soloist with Les Grands Ballets, and Michel Poirier, the director of *Match*, a play running from September 7 to October 15 at the DUCEPPE theater.

On **September 8**, Hervé Courtain made a brief appraisal of *Match* **at the end of the performance** at the DUCEPPE theater, and on **October 13**, Michel Poirier takes his turn, assessing the ballet *Rodin/Claudel* at the Théâtre Maisonneuve. Videos documenting the exchange will be posted on the Facebook pages of Les Grands Ballets and DUCEPPE.

Match is a play written by American dramatist and screenwriter Stephen Belber. A couple, Mike and Lisa, travel from Seattle to New York to interview Tobi Powell, a celebrated classical ballet dancer from the '50s and '60s, who after an accident became a choreographer and teacher at the Juilliard School. Convinced that Lisa is writing a thesis on dance, Tobi agrees to the interview. But the questions soon take an unexpected turn. Tobi realizes that he is the object of a veritable inquisition—on the subject of his past. He is forced to confront a secret that has long been buried...

2- Les Grands Ballets strike a pose Saturday, October 1st, noon to 1 p.m.

Espace culturel Georges-Émile Lapalme, Place des Arts
Free admission

During the Journées de la Culture, Les Grands Ballets are hosting a special life drawing class. On Saturday, October 1st at noon, the public is invited to sketch the dancers of Les Grands Ballets, as part of a drawing workshop inspired by the sculptures of Auguste Rodin. Selected by choreographer Peter Quanz, the five best drawings will be presented on the website and Facebook page of Les Grands Ballets. Don't forget your pencils, papers and easel!



Photo: Damian Siqueiros - Dancerr : Émilie Durville, Marcin Kaczorowski



3- Screening of *Camille Claudel*

Bruno Nuytten/France/1988/colour/175 min/in French

Saturday, October 1st, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Salle Claude-Jutra, Cinémathèque québécoise
335 de Maisonneuve Blvd. E.

Free admission, tickets available at the box office of the Cinémathèque québécoise

On October 1st at 5 p.m., again during the Journées de la culture, the Cinémathèque québécoise will present Bruno Nuytten's film *Camille Claudel*, starring Isabelle Adjani and Gérard Depardieu. Choreographer Peter Quanz, assisted by two dancers from the company, will make a short presentation before the film, offering his insights into the world of Rodin and Claudel. The film won two César Awards in 1989: Best French Film and Best Actress (Adjani).

Synopsis: Camille Claudel devotes her days and nights to her burning passion: sculpture. Supported by her father and brother Paul, she dreams of entering the studio of the great master, Auguste Rodin. After demonstrating her talent and determination to work with him, Claudel is taken on as an apprentice. Camille quickly falls madly in love with the master and becomes his muse, rekindling his imagination. She begins to collaborate more and more with the sculptor... "There is something of the original tumult and chaos reflected in the construction of the film, which proceeds by successive outbursts, most often volcanic. But nothing would have worked without the two opposing actors. They are both superb." (Claude Baignères, *Le Figaro*, Paris)

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