



Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur a celebration of the Living Arts

Saint-Sauveur, May 16th, 2022. The Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur (FASS) today unveiled the program for its 2022 edition, which will be held from July 28th to August 7th. A firm belief in the fundamental importance of culture in our society has brought the Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur into the ranks of major arts and culture events staged in Quebec and the rest of Canada each year. FASS is now the largest regional dance presenter in the country, both in terms of the number of large-scale shows it presents and the size of its attendance. For over 30 years, the festival has welcomed the greatest artists of dance and music on the national and international scene in the enchanting setting of the village of Saint-Sauveur.

"The arts unite us and bring color to our lives. By bringing us together to share an experience, they affirm our humanity and provide hope in a time that needs it. The living arts strengthen our sense of community," said Guillaume Côté, the festival's artistic director.

The 2022 edition of FASS will offer nine shows under the Big Top. On July 28th and 29th, the traditional *International Stars Show* will bring together high-level classical dancers in a breathtaking program. Guillaume Côté will participate alongside Cesar Corrales and Francesca Hayward (Royal Ballet), Sara Mearns (New York City Ballet), Cassandra Trenary and Thomas Forster (American Ballet Theatre), Sebastian Vinet, Maude Sabourin and Melih Mertel (Les Grands Ballets Canadiens), Lazaro Corrales (Danish Royal Ballet) and Angelica Generosa (Pacific Northwest Ballet).

The next day, the duo of pianist Conrad Tao and tap dancer Caleb Teicher will perform *Counterpoint*, which plays on the dichotomy between their respective artistic genre. The individual expression of each of them is expanded through a common experience. The harmonic, rhythmic and theatrical counterpoint between the artists creates constellations that link their different traditions, stimulate the imagination and open the heart.

On Sunday, July 31st, Vertigo Dance Company will present *One. One & One*, by choreographer Noa Wertheim. Performed on an earth-covered stage, the work explores the yearning of individuals to remain whole as they face the challenges of fragmented reality. *One. One & One* involves both the inner and outer world, paying attention to the echo as it is reflected from different directions, while developing the metaphorical relationship between the far and near, the self and other.

FASS continues to support Quebec creation. Anne Plamondon and Virginie Brunelle, well-known figures in Quebec dance, have been working as choreographers for a dozen years. For the first time, they will share the same evening in a double program where they will each create a piece for 12 dancers (August 3rd).

First performed at FASS in 2019 and now back in its new incarnation, *Crypto* (August 4th) takes on themes of universal significance in an original way: forced displacement and man's stubborn desire to control and artificially transform beauty. Written by Pulitzer Prize winner Royce Vavrek, it features an exceptional cast: Guillaume Côté, Greta Hodgkinson, Casia Vengoechea and Natasha Poon Woo. The musical score is by Swedish composer Mikael Karlsson.

A loyal partner of FASS, the Orchestre Métropolitain and its conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin will offer a program of varied works on Friday, August 5th : Beethoven's *5th Symphony*, Airat Ichmouratov's "*Cosmopolitan City*" *Overture* (excerpt), *Symphony No. 3* (3rd and 4th movements) by Louise Farrenc and Eko-Bmijwang and *Where the River Flows* by Barbara Assiginaak, of which Christophe Huss of Le Devoir declared at the time of its premiere (September 30th, 2021) "The choice of this work was a luminous perspicuousness".

Ballets Jazz Montréal will present three works on August 6th, including the world premiere of *We Can't Forget What's His Name* by choreographer Ausia Jones who joined the BJM in 2020, *Ten Duets On A Theme Of Rescue* by Crystal Pite, winner of the 2022 Governor General's Performing Arts Award (the first time in its history that FASS has presented a work by one of the world's greatest dance creators) and *Les Chambres De Jacques* by Aszure Barton, the first artist-in-residence at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in 2005 and artist-in-residence at the Banff Center since 2009, who has been proclaimed Canada's official ambassador of contemporary choreography.

On August 7th, Malpasso Dance Company will close the festival with a program that provides a glimpse into the work of Cuba's first independent dance company with pieces by two great choreographic names, Mats Ek (*Women with Water*) and Aszure Barton (*Stillness in Bloom*), as well as a work entitled *24 Hours and a Dog* by Osnel Delgado, the company's artistic director.

This year marks the return of *Dance Trails* to Molson Park, the *FASS Forward International Dance Film Festival* in a new and improved venue, the *FASS Dance Battle* with Crazy Smooth in Skate Park, free outdoor performances on the McGarrigle Stage, and an exhibition of movement-inspired art at Galerie Rod.

FASS thanks all its partners for their invaluable contribution to this 31st festival: Heritage Canada, Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Tourisme Québec, Tourisme Laurentides, the city of Saint-Sauveur, the MRC des Pays-d'en-Haut, Kevric, Canderel, Hydro Québec, Roasters Foundation, Shawbridge and National Bank Private Banking 1859. Thank you also to the Media Partners : CIME FM, Journal Accès, Journal Le Nord, Flèche Laurentides and to our Service Partners : Manoir Saint-Sauveur, Hôtel Le Versailles Saint-Sauveur, La Danse sur les routes du Québec, Bergeron, Fidrillis et associé, Au Coin Jardin, Galerie ROD, La Vallée de Saint-Sauveur and Saint-Sau Pub Gourmand.

Tickets go on sale May 16th at 10 a.m. on the festival website: www.festivaldesarts.ca

About FASS :

The Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the discovery and presentation of the best choreographers, dancers and musicians. Through its eclectic, inclusive, accessible and original programming, the festival seeks to support and inspire artists from Canada and around the world, and to introduce audiences to their work and passion in an intimate setting.

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