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LES
GRANDS BALLETS
GRADIMIR PANKOV ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

AIRFRANCE / PRESENTS

MINUS ONE



AN ODE TO THE DANCER

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

"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)

Montreal, March 8, 2017—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, March 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31, as well as April 1, 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.





Mr. Gaga

As one of the most sought after choreographers in the world, Ohad Naharin has developed his own movement language and vocabulary known as gaga. Gaga emphasizes listening to the body rather than telling it what to do. Natalie Portman trained with him to prepare for her role in *Black Swan*. Recently he and his gaga have become the subject of Haeymann Brothers' documentary, *Mr. Gaga*, using clips and footage covering 30 years of his life.

Ohad Naharin

Adored by Montréal audiences, Naharin 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 Martha Graham Dance 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. 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, Cullberg Ballet and Ballet de l'Opéra national de Paris. His works *Kaamos*, *Arbos*, *Perpetuum* and *Danz* are part of the repertoire of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal.

Benefit event

The Soirée Jeunes gouverneurs, presented by National Bank in collaboration with L'Oréal Professionnel, will be back for a 5th edition on Saturday, April 1st. More than 400 young professionals will attend the benefit event at Place des Arts. The theme of the night will be Garden Party. The National Bank experience will help attendees create and keep memories of the evening. They will not want to miss the contest, in partnership with L'Oréal Professionnel.

Minus One by Ohad Naharin

performed by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal
on March 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31, as well as on April 1, at 8 p.m.
Théâtre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts

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

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal would like to thank **Air France**, title sponsor, and **Dentons**, evening sponsor.

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