

HARBOURFRONT CENTRE PRESENTS

2/3 TORQUE



WELCOME TO TORQUE

For Harbourfront Centre's 2023/24 season of Torque, we present works embodying the tensions and power of relationships, the ones with each other, history and territory. Each performance seeks to broaden how we view the world and, ultimately, our place in it. These dance pieces provoke us into re-interpreting what we think, feel and see on stage.

In its fifth season, Torque presents the return of some of the country's most iconic contemporary dance performers and international award-winning choreographers offering profoundly original works, all premiering in Toronto for the first time. Global artists, from Germany, Spain, Norway, France, Morocco, the United Kingdom, Brazil, China, Quebec and Toronto explore the connections to their roots, traditions and defining life experiences.

Dance is an expression of our histories, relationships to lands, spiritualities and traditions that comprise the entire spectrum of the human condition. Step into the world of Torque and immerse yourself in the artistry of contemporary dance. Please join us for an exhilarating and unforgettable season of discovery.

See you at the theatre,



Nathalie Bonjour
Director, Performing Arts

INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY DANCE SERIES 23/24



NÁSS by Fouad Boussouf
Photo by Charlotte Audureau

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*“With its propulsive communal energy,
the choreography seems as steeped
in ancient traditions as it is
driven by contemporary urgency.”*

— *The Boston Globe*



Photo by
Charlotte Audureau

NÄSS (PEOPLE)

Fouad Boussof | Artistic Director and Choreographer
FRANCE

October 26–28 | Fleck Dance Theatre

60 minutes, no intermission
CANADIAN PREMIERE

Näss (Arabic for “people”) from Moroccan-born choreographer Fouad Boussof is inspired by the famous 1970s Maghreb Moroccan group Nass el Ghiwane, a band renowned in Africa for merging the repertoire of traditional Moroccan music with lyrics steeped in political and social injustices. It fuses urban hip-hop, street and breakdance styles of movement with contemporary and traditional North African dance. Transporting audiences to the streets of Morocco, new and old worlds collide, where seven male dancers explore what it means to be an individual in a community, complete with all its conflicts and contradictions.

The work, performed with extraordinary musicality and intense physical choreography, blends diverse dance styles in a fusion of rhythms and chiseled bodies. Since its world premiere in 2018 at the Pôle Culturel d’Alfortville, France, *Näss* has toured globally from Bulgaria to Germany, the United Kingdom, Norway, the United States, Morocco, Hong Kong and many more.

PRODUCTION

Current Production: Le Phare – Centre chorégraphique national du Havre Normandie / direction Fouad Boussouf

Co-Production: Théâtre Jean Vilar - Vitry-sur-Seine, Le Prisme – Élancourt, Institut du Monde Arabe – Tourcoing, Fontenay-en-Scènes - Fontenay-sous-bois

Financial Support: ADAMI, Conseil départemental du Val-de-Marne, Région Ile-de-France, Ville de Vitry- sur-Seine, SPEDIDAM, Institut Français of Morocco

Support and Residencies: La Briqueterie - CDCN du Val-de-Marne, Le POC d'Alfortville, Centre National de la Danse, Le FLOW - Pôle Culture Ville de Lille, Cirque Shems'y - Salé, Maroc, Royal Air Maroc Théâtre des Bergeries - Noisy-le- Sec, La Briqueterie - CDCN du Val-de-Marne, Le FLOW - Pôle Culture Ville de Lille, Institut Français de Marrakech

Fouad Boussouf is the Director of Le Phare - CCN du Havre Normandie that receives support from the French Ministry of Culture / the DRAC Normandie, the Normandy région, the city of Le Havre and the Seine-Maritime department. Fouad Boussouf is also an Associated Artist at the Maison de la musique in Nanterre, scène conventionnée d'intérêt national.

Supported by



**CONSULAT
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*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

STATIONS

Louise Lecavalier | Artistic Director and Choreographer
FOU GLORIEUX | QUEBEC

November 23–25 | Fleck Dance Theatre

60 minutes, no intermission
TORONTO PREMIERE

Driven by a vital impulse, incomparable Canadian choreographer Louise Lecavalier takes audiences into the primal experience of dance in the Toronto premiere of *Stations*. The fiery solo performance, set into four distinct stations (which could be interpreted as the seasons of life), brings Lecavalier into astounding focus on stage with one of her most personal works, blending playful and moody choreography with sheer kinetic energy and impressible force. The Order of Canada dancer, who, over the years, has worked with David Bowie, Frank Zappa, Tedd Robinson and Crystal Pite, is an icon of physical movement, with each section of *Stations* escalating in musical intensity, featuring contributions by guitarist Antoine Berthiaume, saxophonist Colin Stetson, electronic group Suuns and singers Teho Teardo and Blixa Bargeld. Using her body as her voice, Lecavalier again proves why she is one of the country's greatest masters of contemporary dance.

Performance Advisory: *Haze*

PRODUCTION

Co-Production: Fou Glorieux; tanzhaus nrw, Düsseldorf; HELLERAU – European Centre for the Arts Dresden; Festival TransAmériques Montreal; Usine C, Montreal; Harbourfront Centre, Performing Arts, Toronto; National Arts Centre, Ottawa; SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs, Vancouver; Diffusion Hector-Charland, L'Assomption and Repentigny.

*“...not a muscle, not a nerve that
remains still, that is not filled to
the brim with presence,
with concentration.”*

— *Westdeutsche Zeitung, Düsseldorf*



Photo by
André Cornéliier

Supported by the Bureau du Québec à Toronto

Québec 

DECIPHERS

CO-PRESENTED WITH DANCEWORKS

Naishi Wang, Jean Abreu | Choreographers
ONTARIO | UNITED KINGDOM

February 8–10 | Harbourfront Centre Theatre

60 minutes, no intermission

ONTARIO PREMIERE

A compelling physical performance bringing together elements of Chinese folk, spoken word and Brazilian dance styles, *Deciphers* explores the complexities of communication through the lens of understanding and misunderstanding. Co-performers and choreographers Naishi Wang and Jean Abreu use the stage as their blank canvas highlighting the body as a primal source of communication and carrier of meaning for an honest and dynamic new work. Addressing translation as a linguistic phenomenon centring on the immigrant experience, the result is a powerful physical journey demonstrating the extraordinary use of the body as a tool of linguistic expression.

Languages spoken during the show:

Portuguese, Chinese and English. No surtitles provided.

PRODUCTION

Partners in Canada include MAI Montréal, Arts interculturels (Montréal), the National Arts Centre (Ottawa), Harbourfront Centre (Toronto), Citadel+Company (Toronto), PuSh Festival (Vancouver), the CanDance Network (Toronto), and the High Commission of Canada in the United Kingdom.

Partners in the United Kingdom include Fabric (Nottingham), Towner Gallery (Eastbourne), Brighton Dome (Brighton), Eastbourne Council (Eastbourne), Take The Space (Eastbourne), and the Arts Council England.

Deciphers is supported by the National Arts Centre (NAC) visiting dance artist programme, the CanDance Network small-scale creation fund, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Technical Residency program at Harbourfront Centre and the PuSh walk special podcast.



Photo by
Maya Yoncali
Naishi Wang (left), Jean Abreu (right)

VÁSTÁDUS EANA THE ANSWER IS LAND

Elle Sofe Sara | Artistic Director and Choreographer
SÁPMI | NORWAY

March 6–7 | Fleck Dance Theatre

65 minutes, no intermission
TORONTO PREMIERE

Centred on our interpersonal relationships and our connection to nature, Sámi choreographer Elle Sofe Sara galvanizes seven female dancers and singers on stage, mixing music, song, traditional yoik and the physical language of dance into an essential choreographic concert that seeks to amplify the long-repressed voices of the Sámi people.

Through their polyphonic chants and movements, the performers draw audiences into a story of resistance and healing, celebrating the harmony between living creatures and the land, between nature and the community. The work, a choreographed, theatrical concert, is inspired by Sámi spirituality and pays tribute to all those who fight injustice.

(Please note that this performance starts outdoors at Ontario Square and will move indoors to the Fleck Dance Theatre.)

Performance Advisory: There are no spoken words in the performance that will need translation; some yoik lyrics are in Sámi.

PRODUCTION

Vástádus eana – The answer is land is coproduced by Arctic Arts Festival, Norrlandsopraen and Tanz im August.

The production *Vástádus eana – The answer is land* received funding from Sámediggi, Norsk Kulturråd, Nordisk Kulturkontakt, Troms og Finnmark Fylkeskommune, Fond for Lyd og Bilde, Dáiddafoanda, Sámiráđđi.

“Powerful in a quiet yet magnificent way.”

– NRK



Supported by



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Ottawa



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Conseil des arts du Canada

Photo by
Antero Hein

WMS SWAN LAKES SW
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ALL TAKES SEVEN
WESSI

“The body motions were perfect, while each limb seemed to have its own mission and rhythms that were hypnotizing.”

- The Jerusalem Post

SWAN LAKES

Eric Gauthier | Artistic Director
GAUTHIER DANCE//DANCE COMPANY THEATERHAUS
STUTTGART | GERMANY

April 18–20 | Fleck Dance Theatre

1 hour and 50 minutes, including intermission
CANADIAN PREMIERE

Choreographer and artistic director of Gauthier Dance//Dance Company Theaterhaus Stuttgart, Eric Gauthier has given a quartet of his favourite international choreographers creative license to re-envision the legendary ballet, *Swan Lake*. Inspired by Tchaikovsky's famous score, the four world-renowned choreographers (Hofesh Shechter, Marie Chouinard, Marco Goecke and Cayetano Soto) re-interpret the work into their daring choreographic languages, subverting its classical roots to bring four new stories to the stage with each 20-minute vignette mysterious, radical and explosive in approach. Bursting with energy, 16 dancers draw on the beloved piece for an original and exciting contemporary dance creation.

Performance Advisory: *Haze*

PRODUCTION

Gauthier Dance//Dance Company Theaterhaus Stuttgart would like to thank STIHL, Fashion-und Lifestylehaus Breuninger in Stuttgart and Law Firm CMS Germany as well as supporters Kästner GmbH & Co. KG, the First Friends and Friends of Gauthier Dance, the Gerhard and Paul-Hermann Bauder Foundation, the Foundation Herbert Metzger und Anneliese Metzger-Nord and the Dr. Roland & Brigitte Schmid Foundation. Theaterhaus Stuttgart is sponsored by Mercedes-Benz Bank, the City of Stuttgart and the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

UNTITLED FOR 7 DANCERS

Choreography: Cayetano Soto

Music: Peter Gregson

Set & Costume Design: Cayetano Soto, Dario Suša

Lighting Design: Cayetano Soto

Dramaturgy: Esther Dreesen-Schaback, Dario Suša

Assistant to the Choreographer: Mikiko Arai

LE CHANT DU CYGNE : LE LAC

Choreographer and Set, Costume

Lighting & Video Designer: Marie Chouinard

Composer: Louis Dufort

Rehearsal Director: Lucie Vigneault

Assistant to the Lighting Director: Chantal Labonté

Production Manager: Jérémie Boucher

SHARA NUR

Choreography: Marco Goecke

Music: Björk, Jesse Callaert

Lighting Design: Udo Haberland

Set & Costume Design: Michaela Springer

SWAN CAKE

Choreography & Composition: Hofesh Shechter

Lighting Design: Mario Daszenies, Hofesh Shechter

Costume Design: Gudrun Schretzmeier, Hofesh Shechter

Assistant: Kim Kohlmann

Supported by



OUR TORQUE PATRONS ENSURE THE FUTURE OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE

As Canada's leading centre for contemporary culture, Harbourfront Centre has been home to the next generation of creative minds for 50 years. We commission new work, support emerging artists, foster meaningful partnerships with our local community and reach new audiences through our dynamic cultural programming.

Torque Patrons are valued members of Harbourfront Centre's extended family. Your generous support helps present outstanding internationally-renowned contemporary dance, enriching our artist meet-and-greets, masterclasses and Performing Arts residency programs, helping to inspire the next generation of emerging dancers and artists.

Every dancer knows the importance of a good partner. Please consider joining Torque's Patron Circle today.



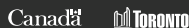
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Chief Development Officer

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INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY DANCE SERIES



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