

CHOREOGRAPHIC RESEARCH WORKSHOP

17TH EDITION

- DECEMBER 14-18, 2020 -

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION GUIDELINES



HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

Montréal Danse is constantly reflecting on how the company might assist choreographers in understanding and improving their choreographic process, developing their choreographic skills, and gaining insight into the singularity of their choreographic voice. In 2004 this reflection led to Montréal Danse's first Choreographic Research Workshop for choreographers wanting a safe and stimulating environment in which to question their art making. The formula has proven its worth: Montréal Danse will be giving its 17th Choreographic Research Workshop in December.

Please make note: The current COVID -19 crisis is forcing us to adapt our workshops. Each participant will have to follow the sanitary instructions of the studios in order to respect the distance and the sanitary rules in place.

THE WORKSHOP

Four choreographers will be selected to experience and contribute to an intensive week of research, discussion and artistic process development **from December 14-18, 2020**. Working as facilitators with these choreographers will be two experts who bring a wide range of experience to the process:

- **Kathy Casey** - Artistic Director of Montréal Danse, has assisted a wide variety of choreographers in the creation of their works over the last 20 years
- **2nd facilitator** - to be confirmed

A month or so before the workshop, each choreographer will meet once or twice with Kathy Casey to begin identifying specific creative challenges to be addressed. Each choreographer will then be provided two dancers with whom to work. Choreographers and dancers are matched to provide the best possible fit between the artistic research intentions of the choreographers and the performance and technical skills of the dancers.

Starting on Monday December 14th and continuing through Friday December 18th each day will begin with a meeting with the facilitators, followed by 90-minute morning public seminar. These public seminars are conducted in English and French and will be open to other choreographers, dancers, rehearsal directors, artistic counsellors, teachers, dance journalists, etc (if the sanitary instructions allow it).

Each afternoon, choreographers will have 4 hours of rehearsal to explore ways of addressing their particular creative questions. The workshop facilitators will observe rehearsals and comment upon or ask questions about the ongoing process. A closed showing of the day's work will follow the studio work. The day will conclude with a discussion that will allow the choreographers and facilitators to delve deeply into the creative questions brought to the table. The workshop is intensive and participants should not have any other commitments during the week.

REMARKS FROM PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORKSHOP

"In the workshops I felt I was challenged in a positive way thereby allowing me to break through certain limitations, perceptions and potentially unconscious tendencies. I see the Montreal Danse choreographic workshop as a chance to step out of the habitual. The intensive structure of the workshop creates the kind of compression needed for artistic growth." **Dana Gingras** | *This workshop proved to be a great place to challenge myself. The workshop gave me the space and freedom I needed to test ideas (...) I was able to put all my energies into creating, which is a great privilege. Expectations are lived differently in this week of workshop since we have the freedom to use our time for creation and presentation according to our needs, without pressure to correspond to something or to please anyone."* **Brice Noeser** | *"3 reasons why I consider this workshop to be so important: It allows choreographers to meet and collaborate with dancers whom they have*

not had the chance to work with previously; It cultivates a space where choreographers receive critical feedback about their work, which is something I feel is sorely lacking in our profession; most importantly, the workshop offers the rare opportunity to concentrate on experimentation and research in studio over an intensive period without the pressure of a production (or show) at the end. This opens the possibilities for choreographers to take more risks and really focus on developing their creative processes, methodologies and choreographic strategies.” Andrew Tay

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Choreographers will be chosen on the basis of works submitted and a written application (see Application Form below). The submitted materials are reviewed by the facilitators. A particularly important element in the selection process is the short essays applicants will provide in response to three questions on the application form. In reading applicants’ responses to these questions, the facilitators look for evidence of the choreographer’s ability to assess his or her dance making, to articulate their artistic questions, to explore alternate approaches in their creative work, to exchange ideas with others, and the capacity to participate fully in an in-depth, intensive workshop. The submitted works should give the selection committee a good sense of the applicant’s recent creations and should help illustrate the answers to the essays.

FEE FOR WORKSHOP

The cost for the five-day workshop will be \$400, plus taxes. Please note that it is possible for Quebec residents to apply to the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ) for financial assistance to cover the cost of this workshop. All information about grants can be found on the CALQ website.

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND NOTIFICATION DATE

Completed applications must be sent by email by **October 1, 2020**. The four selected choreographers will be notified by **October 10, 2020**. If you have any question, please contact Kathy Casey by email at kathycasey2008@gmail.com

PARTNERS

Avec la participation financière de :



Conseil
des arts
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Tangente

Thanks to **Département de danse de l’UQAM** for their long-standing support of the Choreographic Research Workshops.

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WORKSHOP
2020



APPLICATION FORM

Please review the Application Guidelines. Complete the form and attach the following materials:

- 1) **An internet link to videos of recent work or works** (e.g. on Youtube, Vimeo or via wetransfer.com). We will watch a maximum of 20 minutes of work so please be clear on what we should look at.
- 2) Your **curriculum vitae** (resume)
- 3) Your **concise answers to the following questions:**
 - **A/** What do you consider as the main strengths and weaknesses of your works to date, and from what sources do you derive these ideas (personal intuition, published criticism, feedback from dancers and/or visitors to the studio, etc.) We want to know how you are analyzing your work.
 - **B/** Please share your current artistic goals and aspirations and explain how this workshop can move you forward. Are your current goals new ones, or transformation of older ones, or something else? What are your research methods and how do you develop ideas in studio?
 - **C/** Recognizing the intensive nature of the workshop, in particular the daily discussions with the facilitators and the other choreographers, tell us how you expect the workshop to facilitate your explorations. If you have previously benefited from the discussion of your work, describe the scope and content of these exchanges. If you have had unpleasant experiences with work-based discussions, how could things have gone better?

NAME _____

TEL # _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

How did you hear about this workshop?

SIGNATURE _____ DATE OF APPLICATION _____

Completed applications should be sent by e-mail to kathycasey2008@gmail.com by October 1, 2020.