

Estelle Claretton: Chorégraphe



Estelle Claretton began her professional career in 1987 after 8 years of training at the National Conservatory of Dance in Avignon, France. She danced for Les Ballets Jazz of Montréal, Danse Partout, O Vertigo, the Compagnie Flak and the Jean-Pierre Perrault Foundation.

In 1995, she began to create her own choreographic works combining dance and theatre, with *Le secret*, *Adésias*, and *Présage de pluie*. In 1999, Ms. Claretton founded her company, Création Caféine, and continued her research with the creation of *Juliette*, performed in Québec and France. Other creations include: *C'est à 30 ans que quoi déjà?* (2002) with Manon Brunelle in co-production with the Contemporary Art Museum of Montréal; *Monsieur* (2003) and *Messieurs, Dame* (2005), which were presented and co-produced by l'Agora de la danse and toured in Québec and France; and *FURIES Alpha 1/24, Béta 2/24, Gamma 3 /24 and Delta 4/24* (2005). In September 2010, she and her company presented *S'envoler*, a hit in Montréal currently touring Quebec.

Estelle Claretton has worked on numerous projects in collaboration with other artists or companies, including Wajdi Mouawad, Montréal Danse, and Théâtre de Quat'sous. In 2006, she began working as an artistic advisor at the National Circus School of Montréal, where she has also directed and presented workshops.

Ms. Claretton has participated as a choreographer, in numerous projects of theatre, circus, film and music. She is also pursuing her career as a performer in dance and theatre, appearing in *Asile de la pureté* by Claude Gauvreau, directed by Lorraine Pintal at the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, and the TV series *Les hauts et les bas de Sophie Paquin*, directed by Claude Desrosiers for Radio Canada.

Lina Cruz: Chorégraphe



"Stylized to the minimum gesture," Montréal-based choreographer Lina Cruz creates works with a very personal signature, considered different, inventive and always evolving on the margins of mainstream dance. A second place award winner in the 1998 choreographic competition of the St-Sauveur Arts Festival (Québec), Lina Cruz has presented her work in Spain, Switzerland, France, Mexico, United States, Québec and Canada. Her training and early career as a dancer took place mainly in Spain and the U.S.A (New York). Parallel to her dancing, she trained in karate Shotokan, achieving a brown belt.

Before moving to Montréal in 1989, Cruz worked with Carl Paris, Luis Fuente, Marco Berriel, Aurelio Bogado, and Christopher Fleming, among other modern and classical choreographers. She has also choreographed for opera productions of the Atelier Lyrique of the Montréal Opera and for the contemporary opera company Chants Libres.

As a dancer in Montréal, Cruz has worked with Silvy Panet-Raymond in the Felix award winning opera-performance *KÁ* (1989-1990) and with independent choreographers, Jane Mappin (1993-1994) and Alain Francoeur (1999). Cruz has also participated in projects with Gilles Maheu, Johanne Madore, Dulcinée Langfelder and Guy Beausoleil.

After 15 years as an independent choreographer, Lina Cruz founded Fila 13 Productions in late 2003. The company's mission is to create contemporary dance works integrating musicians on stage. Increasingly present in Québec, and with tours extending to the rest of Canada and Europe, the company's most recent piece, *Soupe du Jour*, was presented in Victoria, B.C. at the ROMP! 2010, in Toronto at the dance: made in canada/fait au Ccnada festival, in Montreal at Agora de la danse, and on tour in Spain. In the 2011/2012 season, *Soupe du Jour* will tour the cultural halls of the city of Montréal.

Deborah Dunn: Chorégraphe



The multitalented Deborah Dunn was first introduced to dance at university where she was studying visual arts. The art form immediately began to influence her drawing and painting, the body finally leaping off the canvas and leading her to dance class. She then found herself steadily seduced by the theatre, first as a photographer and costume designer, then as a performer and choreographer.

She founded her company Trial & Eros in Vancouver in the early 90s and is now based in Montréal. The company has been touring nationally for the past fifteen years.

Dunn has created eight evening-length works: *Trial & Eros*, *Pandora's Books*, *The Little Queen*, *The Birds*, *Blackmail*, *Elegant Heathens*, *Nocturnes* and *Four Quartets*. In 2007, *Elegant Heathens* received the Cirque du Soleil award for the most distinctive new work in dance, theatre or circus. She is presently working on a new creation for seven dancers inspired by Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* that will premiere at Agora de la danse in Montréal in March 2012.

Dunn has taught at Concordia University, at l'Université de Québec à Montréal and at The National Theatre School.

Jean-Sébastien Lourdais: Chorégraphe



After graduating from the Grymda Center, France and the UQAM, Jean-Sébastien Lourdais presented his first piece, *Un Beau Matin du 21 juin* (2001), followed by *Fabrication Danse* (2002), which he would eventually name his own company.

From 2004 to 2006, Lourdais collaborated with sociologist Marc Laplante, creating *Règlement de Compte*, *Le lait de la Vache*, *Toutou Kaputt* and *Contrôle Réaction*. He took part in Research Event Montréal Danse, which led to a group work that will premiere in 2012 at Agora de la danse (Montréal). Lourdais produced his new solo, *Vers*, in collaboration with the Rencontre Chorégraphiques Internationales de Seine St-Denis, which had its world première in Paris and will be performed as part of the Agora de la danse 2011-2012 program.

Lourdais not only participates as a choreographer in many festivals – such as the Mettre en Scène du Théâtre National de Bretagne Festival, the 30 30 festival, the Bordeaux rencontres du court, and Les Hivernales d'Avignon festival – he also collaborates as an interpreter with various choreographers. Lourdais is currently beginning work on a new research project, *Between Two*, which will be created with several performers and will tour Europe in 2013.