

## 12<sup>th</sup> edition of Festival TransAmériques

### Enthusiastic Audiences for Avant-garde Showcase

Dance  
+ Theatre

Montreal, June 8, 2018 – From May 23 to June 7, Montreal was immersed in a delightful frenzy generated by the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival TransAmériques. **Over a period of 16 days, 25 dance and theatre** shows charmed curious, attentive and captivated audiences with performances in **17 sites across the city**. Day after day, exceptional encounters took place between artists and spectators in the venues – always full – moments of passionate interest and exchange.

*Under embargo  
until May 8, 2018*

By the end of the festival, **19 of the 22 shows were sold out** (77 performances out of a total of 83), **with an overall attendance rate of 99% – a first for the FTA!** Given that the artistic approaches and quests of the featured artists were audacious, innovative and at times demanding, these figures are a clear indication that Montrealers are keen on an avant-garde program that surprises, disconcerts and enchants.

The co-executive directors of the FTA, **Martin Faucher** and **David Lavoie**, feel blessed by the impressive number of spectators enjoying the shows. Nonetheless, it is essential that the FTA have the financial means necessary to continue to fulfill its mission in its current format, allowing it to also raise its outdoor program, respond to demand from a growing audience and continue to play a critical role in the theatre and dance community.

**From May 23  
to June 7 2018**

### 2018 Facts & Figures

- 115 performances of 25 shows from 13 countries (South Africa, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Mexico, Holland, Sweden, United States)
- 210 artists from 20 countries
- 9 co-productions, including an international co-production (*Titans*)
- 9 new works, including 8 world premières
- 9 North American premières
- 72 FTA Playgrounds activities (meet-the-artists events, discussions, films, FTA Clinics, master classes, parties)
- 2432 overnight stays in hotels directly generated by Festival activities
- 2 Benefit Events
- \$111,000 invested in co-production by the FTA
- 149 presenters and festival programmers from 24 countries
- 165 journalists, including 16 from outside Quebec from 4 countries
- 759 young participants to our Student Outreach Program
- 1 book on the artistic history of the FTA



*La parade des taupes* © Trung Dung Nguyen

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## Overview of Festival Program

From the opening night presentation of the Chinese diptych **6 & 9**, enchantment, rigour and contrasts were characteristic of this 2018 edition. The virtuosity of the dancers and actors was manifest night after night, right up to the closing presentation when the dazzling performers of **Betroffenheit** galvanized the audience.

While the return to Montreal of Ivo van Hove and the impressive troupe in the spectacular **Kings of War** did indeed fulfill all expectations, spectators were also bowled over by the discovery of Brazilian actors in their visceral presentation of **Tom na Fazenda**. The brilliant, lyrical power of words brought to vibrant life **La vie utile**, was a trenchant and musical force in **Nos ghettos**, and a tender, magnified presence in **Autour du Lactume**.

Throughout the Festival, new ways of representing the world we live in appeared on our stages. Mysterious, intriguing or disturbing, creatures of all sorts were evoked in unexplored realms that were part and parcel of the illuminating shows **Dark Field Analysis** and **Titans**. And of course, burrowing mammals made a big impression with festivalgoers as they wandered the city streets both below and above ground in **La parade des taupes** before inviting spectators into their fantastic lair for **La nuit des taupes**.

The voices of difference were raised by artists to shift our gaze toward geopolitical and environmental issues in **Tijuana**, **Oblivion** and **And So You See...** Direct appeals to reconnect with the ancestral memories of the First Nations and to embark on a collective healing were summoned in **Phantom Stills & Vibrations** and **Windigo**.

As for the artists behind **Pourama pourama**, **Récital** and **Non finito**, they transcended their personal history by turning the stage into a territory for sharing, inviting the public to share with them not only the stage, but their secrets and their trust.

Exploring new approaches imposed by a loss of direction, **Bleu** and **Union of the North** confounded expectations, probing the present moment and states of the body. In the installation piece **Fluid Grounds**, the spectators were an active part of the piece over the 24 hours of the performance, spread out over three days.

The quality of performances was matched by refined aesthetics, from the minimalist grace of **Quatuor tristesse** to the outlandish excess of the baroque cabaret **Until Our Hearts Stop**. Indeed, every piece had a strong, distinctive signature.

A significant milestone in this edition was **Solo 70**, a memorable offering from Paul-André Fortier, marking the end of an important creative chapter for this renowned adventurer in Quebec dance. The piece was a noble gesture of passing on the baton to younger generations.



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## FTA Playgrounds

In parallel with the post-show encounters with artists, the films shown at the Cinémathèque québécoise and the passionate discussions and boisterous parties at the Quartier général, the FTA Playgrounds transformed the churning energy of the performances into food for thought. Festival organizers were delighted with the large number of spectators who took part in Playground activities, not to mention the professional artists who registered for the Master Classes and FTA Clinics.

### Dance + Theatre

That vibrant extension of the FTA experience was made wonderfully apparent with the publication by Somme toute of the first-ever book about the FTA, **Nos jours de fête**.

The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival TransAmériques will take place from **May 22 to June 5, 2019**.

## The Festival wishes to extend its sincere thanks to our partners

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Fluid Grounds © Trung Dung Nguyen

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