

Festival TransAmériques presents in North American première

Tous des oiseaux

Wajdi Mouawad

La Colline - théâtre national, Paris

Montreal, November 15, 2018 - After the exceptional *Sang des promesses* cycle at FTA 2010, the fiery force of Wajdi Mouawad's sweeping theatrical epics returns to Montreal. This highly acclaimed performance event will take place from May 22 to 27, 2019, as opening show of the 13th edition of the Festival TransAmériques.

The fiery force of Wajdi Mouawad's sweeping theatrical epics is back with a vengeance! The impossible destiny of two lovers, she an Arab, he an Israeli, caught in the vortex of endless war. Incredibly powerful, a tragedy unleashed in the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Secrets reverberate, the truth explodes, intimacy is shattered by world events.

Do our past and our origins define our identity? From New York to Jerusalem by way of Berlin, from love at first sight to a terrorist attack, from screams to bursts of laughter, the writer has created a gripping gaze that is embedded in the inextricable chaos of the Middle East. With its jumble of languages, it features an international, high-calibre cast, performers who have the blood of the characters in their bones. With *Tous des oiseaux*, Mouawad brings to light the frontiers of the inexpressible, the painful impossibility or reconciling sworn enemies, leaving us inconsolable.



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May 22 to 27
2019

Place des Arts

Théâtre
Jean-Duceppe

4 h including
intermission

In German,
English, Arabic
and Hebrew
with French
surtitles

Presented by



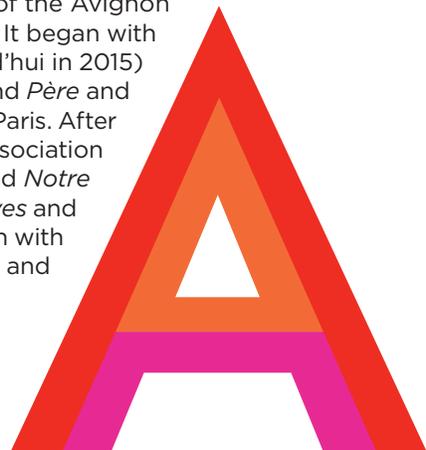
Press relations:
Isabelle Longtin
Roy & Turner
Communications
514 844 9678 # 212
ilongtin@roy-turner.com

Wajdi Mouawad / La Colline - théâtre national

Ever since his début, Wajdi Mouawad has been soberly presenting human and historical truths. In works devoid of didacticism, life prevails despite wars, despite men and women carried off by military conflicts. Human, all too human. His first plays were presented in Montreal, the city where he developed as an artist, and featured characters and stories inspired by his childhood in Lebanon. His saga play *Littoral* dealt with the quest for origins and established his reputation as an outstanding playwright and director. His first collaboration with the FTA in 1997 led to *Incendies*, which was turned into a film by Denis Villeneuve. The FTA then presented his play *Rêves*, followed by the quadrilogy *Le sang des promesses* in 2010, which included *Littoral*, *Incendies*, *Forêts* and *Ciels*, an unforgettable event that deeply moved festivalgoers.

He was artistic director of the Théâtre français at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa from 2007 to 2012, and in 2009 became the associate artist of the 63rd edition of the Avignon Festival. His most recent cycle, *Domestique*, focuses on the theme of family. It began with *Seuls* in 2008, *Sœurs* in 2014 (presented at the Centre du Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui in 2015) and will be followed in the years to come with *Frères* with Robert Lepage, and *Père* and *Mère*. Since 2016 he has been the director of the La Colline-théâtre national in Paris. After *Tous des oiseaux* in 2017, which received the Grand prix bestowed by the Association professionnelle de la critique de théâtre, de musique et de danse, he created *Notre innocence* and in 2018 a solo piece entitled *Inflammation du verbe vivre*. *Fauves* and *Mort prématurée d'un chanteur dans la force de l'âge*, created in collaboration with Arthur H, will be presented in 2019. His plays and novels have been translated and published in some twenty languages.

Colline.fr





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May 22 + 23 + 27 at 7 p.m. + May 25 + 26 at 2 p.m.

Place des Arts

Théâtre Jean-Duceppe
175, Sainte-Catherine West
Metro Place-des-Arts

Tickets on sale now

Special offer

2 tickets for \$129

Promotion available for a limited time

INFO FTA
514 844 3822 / 1 866 984 3822
fta.ca

Press quotes

“*Tous des Oiseaux* is a throwback to the tales of family trauma and epic narrative that made Mouawad such a popular voice in the French-speaking world.(...) It takes an exceptional cast to pull it off, and Mouawad has assembled one.”

Laura Cappelle, *Financial Times*, 2017-11-23

« Grand feuilletton, grand dialogue philosophique, grand poème, le texte de Mouawad donne lieu à un spectacle impressionnant. »

Gilles Costaz, *Politix*, 2017-12-14

« Un spectacle puissamment poétique et une brillante réflexion sur l'identité. »

J.N, *L'Obs*, 2017-12-07

« Acclamée par la critique parisienne, cette saga (...) est devenue l'événement de la saison théâtrale. »

Christian Rioux, *Le Devoir*, 2017-12-05

« Du très grand art ! »

Agnès Santi, *La Terrasse*, 2017-12-01

« Un somptueux casting d'acteurs polyglottes. »

Ève Beauvallet, *Libération*, 2017-12-01

« Un art de la narration rarement atteint dans une pièce contemporaine. »

Marie Diatkine, *Libération*, 2017-12-01

« Beauté des langues emmêlées, (...) acteurs internationaux à la présence immédiate, fluidité des images comme jamais encore ne l'avait réussie le metteur en scène. Tout est saisissant.

Emmanuelle Bouchez, *Télérama*, 2017-11-29

« Wajdi Mouawad est d'abord et avant tout un exceptionnel raconteur d'histoires, et celle-ci vous attrape dès les premières secondes pour ne plus vous lâcher. »

Fabienne Darge, *Le Monde*, 2017-11-28

FTA Playgrounds

May 25 / Meet the artists after the performance

Credits

Produced by **La Colline - théâtre national**

Written and directed by **Wajdi Mouawad**

Performed by **Jalal Altawil + Jérémie Galiana + Victor de Oliveira + Leora Rivlin + Judith Rosmair + Darya Sheizaf + Rafael Tabor + Raphael Weinstock + Souheila Yacoub**

Direction Assistant **Valérie Nègre**

Dramaturgy **Charlotte Farcet**

Artistic Advisor **François Ismert**

Historic Advisor **Natalie Zemon Davis**

Original Music **Eleni Karaindrou**

Set Design **Emmanuel Clolus**

Lighting Design **Éric Champoux**

Sound Design **Michel Maurer**

Costume Design **Emmanuelle Thomas**

Make-up and Hair **Cécile Kretschmar**

Translation **Uli Menke** (into German) + **Linda Gaboriau** (into English) + **Jalal Altawil** (into Arabic) + **Eli Bijaoui** (into Hebrew)

Produced with the support of **Cultural services of the Israël embassy in France + The Cameri Theatre of Tel Aviv**

Presented by **La Presse+** in association with **Place des Arts + Carrefour international de théâtre (Québec)**

At Carrefour international de théâtre on June 3, 2019 at the Salle Louis-Fréchette of the Grand Théâtre de Québec

Premiered at La Colline - théâtre national, Paris, on November 17, 2017