

Les Ballets C de la B back in Montreal

Requiem pour L., a very moving work by Fabrizio Cassol and Alain Platel

Montreal,
November 21,
2019

In 2015 *tauberbach* was awarded the Grand Prix de la danse de Montréal. The Belgian choreographer Alain Platel and his celebrated ballets C de la B will be back this spring 2020 with *Requiem pour L.*, a not-to-be-missed, striking piece presented from May 26 to 28, as part of the 14th edition of the Festival TransAmériques, which will take place from May 20 to June 3, 2020.

Music
+ Dance

What if the end of life is something to be celebrated? Resurrecting the power of Mozart's uncompleted and mythical opus *Requiem*, the dynamic duo consisting of composer Fabrizio Cassol and choreographer Alain Platel forces us to look death in the face. Fourteen musicians and singers from every continent invite the audience to a Mass where meditation and exaltation join together in a divine embrace.

Both a release and a rush of emotions, the piece crystallizes the final moments of a woman's life, sublimating them in a sacred ode dedicated to all the living of this earth. Opera, jazz and African rhythms accompany L. as she takes her last breath in a memorial that resonates with the fervent footsteps of pulsing gumboots. By means of rituals far removed from Western funeral rites, and augmented by the vivid intensity of voices and bodies, *Requiem pour L.* becomes a deeply moving work that rejuvenates our conception of death. It is not adieu, but a call to life.

May 26 to 28
2020

Place des Arts
Théâtre
Maisonneuve

Length : 1 h 40

Fabrizio Cassol + Alain Platel

The Flemish choreographer and director Alain Platel has been pushing against the limits of the performing arts since founding les ballets C de la B in 1984. Within this world renowned collective he has developed a humanist approach that embraces difference, inspired in no small part by his training as a teacher for the mentally and physically handicapped. Combining disciplines in works performed by actors, dancers and musicians from diverse backgrounds, Platel is famous for creating unconventional, marginal worlds, a mélange of the commonplace and the sublime. His previous pieces presented at the FTA were *lets op Bach* (1999), *Allemaal Indiaan* (2001), *Gardenia* (2011, a story of ageing drag queens) and *tauberbach* (2015), about individuals surviving in a garbage dump.

The 2006 choral project *Coup de chœurs* 2006 marked the beginning of a close collaboration with the Belgian composer Fabrizio Cassol. Their partnership also led to *vsprs* (2006), *Pitié !* (2009) and *Coup fatal* (2014), a tribute to the joie de vivre of musicians in the Congo, the fruit of a dynamic encounter with the artistic community in Kinshasa. Saxophonist with the group Aka Moon, Cassol communicates with musicians from all over the world, and often inserts oral and written traditions into existing pieces. He has worked with choreographers and directors such as Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker, Lemi Ponifasio, Faustin Linyekula, Philippe Boesmans, Luc Bondy and the group tg STAN.

Presented by

LA
PRESSE

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Over the past dozen years the duo has presented multifarious works, each time creating yet another new world, another enticing patchwork. In *Requiem pour L.* they intermingle Western and African repertoires in a portrayal of the final passage of humanity-death. The piece involves collaborators from every continent, from South Africa to the Congo by way of Europe, the United States, Vietnam and Brazil.



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May 26 to 28 at 8 p.m.

Place des Arts

Théâtre Maisonneuve
175, rue Sainte-Catherine Ouest
Métro Place-des-Arts

Tickets on sale Saturday, November 23, at 10 a.m.

Special offer
2 tickets for \$114

Hurry! Promotion applies to 500 tickets only

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Press quotes

“An extraordinary fusion between Mozart’s *Requiem* and African music. Platel and Cassol imagine a different kind of ceremony of mourning, which is neither Western nor African, and interweaves joy and celebration with moments of contemplation. [...] *Requiem pour L.* confronts us with our own mortality in a way that is both sad and joyful, serene and boisterous. It is a unique work, one that, should you feel able to abandon yourself to what it proposes, ends by bringing true catharsis.”

Culturewhisper.com, 21-03-2018

“A largely extraordinary experience”

The Times, 22-03-2018

“Cassol’s contribution is magisterial”

The Guardian, 25-03-2018

FTA Playgrounds

May 27 / Meet the artists after the performance

Credits

Produced by **les ballets C de la B + Festival de Marseille + Berliner Festspiele**

Music **Fabrizio Cassol** after Mozart’s *Requiem*

Direction and Set Design **Alain Platel**

Conductor **Rodriguez Vangama**

Created with and performed by **Maribeth Diggle + Bouton Kalanda + Charles Kieny + Kojack Kossakamvwe + Silva Makengo + Fredy Massamba + Owen Metsileng + Nobulumko Mngxekeza + Boule Mpanya + Erick Ngoya + Michel Seba + Russell Tshiebua + Niels Van Heertum + Rodriguez Vangama**

Created with **Joao Barradas + Stephen Diaz + Rodrigo Ferreira**

Dramaturge **Hildegard De Vuyst**

Video **Alain Platel + Natan Rosseel + Simon Van Rompay**

Light Design **Carlo Bourguignon**

Sound Design **Guillaume Desmet + Carlo Thompson**

Costume Design **Dorine Demuynck**

Co-produced by **Opéra de Lille + Théâtre National de Chaillot (Paris) + Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg + Onassis Cultural Centre Athens + TorinoDanza (Turin) + Aperto Festival/ Fondazione I Teatri (Reggio Emilia) + Kampnagel Hamburg + Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele + Festspielhaus Sankt Pölten + L’Arsenal (Metz) + Scène Nationale du Sud-Aquitain (Bayonne) + Ville de Marseille - Opéra**

With the support of **The Flemish authorities + City of Ghent + Province East Flanders + North Sea Port + Belgian Tax Shelter**

Presented by **La Presse** in association with **Place des Arts + Carrefour international de Théâtre (Québec City) + National Arts Centre (Ottawa) + Luminato Festival Toronto**

At National Arts Center (Ottawa), from May 20 to 22, 2020 and at Carrefour international de théâtre on June 2, 2020 at the Salle Louis-Frédette of the Grand Théâtre de Québec

Premiered at Berliner Festspiele, on January 18, 2018