

For All the Stories in the World

24 Theatre and Dance Shows

Montreal, Tuesday, March 21 – The 17th edition of Festival TransAmériques takes audiences on a journey through our collective imagination, with emotion providing a valuable source of insight into different worlds. From May 24 to June 8, 2023, the Festival presents 24 shows by artists from 21 countries—including 5 co-productions, 4 world premieres, and 9 North American premieres. Shot through with hope and the pursuit of freedom, laughter and song, beauty and desire, the 2023 edition brings unforgettable stories to life, creates connections between far-away places, and offers a host of experiences that tackle complex realities.

"What happens if we listen beyond the words? What do bodies tell us? What memories do they reveal to us? What stories are missing? The artists of this 17th edition of FTA share their stories – in many fabulous and furious ways. Let's join them in finding our chosen lineage! Let's compose together a revolutionary archive of the future!"

- Martine Dennewald and Jessie Mill, co-artistic directors

In My Body © Jerick Collantes

To open the Festival, the Sámi choreographer **Elle Sofe Sara** will guide festivalgoers from the Esplanade Tranquille into the theatre for *Vástádus eana – The answer is land*, a remarkable choreographed concert. Its polyphonic tales of resistance are an expression of the Sámi people's love for the land. Accompanied by local Andean dancers and musicians, Argentina's **Tiziano Cruz** leads a festive parade from Place Émilie-Gamelin to the National, where he performs *Soliloquio*, a manifesto calling for the acceptance of differences.

At dusk, the Esplanade Tranquille in Quartier des spectacles will host *Creation Destruction*, a must-see event, free and open to all. This monumental work by choreographer **Dana Gingras** is a response to ecological collapse that brings together a dozen musicians—with several members of the legendary band Godspeed You! Black Emperor at their core—and eleven spectacular dancers to perform in front of a brilliant installation by the London collective United Visual Artists.

The Festival's largest venues will be home to remarkable performers, representing a wide range of ages and body stories, under the guidance of leading choreographers. Belfast's **Oona Doherty**, a rising star of the international dance scene, will present *Navy Blue*, set to *Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2* and the electronic sounds of Jamie xx. *In My Body*, by Canadian choreographer and b-boy Yvon Soglo (aka **Crazy Smooth**), combines three generations of street dancers propelled by the power of community. The extraordinary Brazilian choreographer **Lia Rodrigues** contributes *Encantado*, a spellbinding outpouring of images and poetry delivered by enchanting spirits.

Press relations RuGicomm

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Confidential until March 21, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

From May 24

to June 8 2023



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Reflecting the boldest visions of contemporary theatre, FTA features formally inventive plays and captivating sensory experiences. In Létang, a play by the writer and poet Robert Walser, Gisèle Vienne provides an acting showcase, delivered with virtuosity by Adèle Haenel and Henrietta Wallberg. Inspired by Marguerite Duras's The Malady of Death, White Out by the Quebec company Leau du bain plunges the audience into a dense fog, which becomes the scene of a stunning artistic experience. The same team explores the power of children and their dreams in a second work, La chambre des enfants, a remarkably sophisticated adventure for the whole family. The director Angela Konrad brings a visceral adaptation of Tableau final de l'amour by Larry Tremblay, inspired by the love life of the English painter Francis Bacon. Malicho Vaca Valenzuela, a Chilean artist of Mapuche origin, will perform one of the most tender and moving works to emerge from the pandemic, Reminiscencia-which may be viewed in the theatre or online. And the company Posthumains, renowned for its artistic explorations of issues relating to prolonging human life, performs i/O. a thoughtful and ingenious work by Dominique Leclerc.



Other companies participating this year offer exhilarating experiences. Australia's **Back to Back Theatre**—who delighted festivalgoers with *Ganesh Versus the Third Reich* at FTA 2013—return with *The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes*, a work at once philosophical and hilarious. **Catherine Bourgeois** and her company **Joe Jack & John** take aim at conformist thinking in their updating of a Pirandello classic in *Cispersonnages en quête d'auteurice*. In *The Making of Pinocchio*, Glaswegian artists **Rosana Cade** and **Ivor MacAskill** transform the puppet's quest for identity into a powerful metaphor for MacAskill's gender transition. **Cliff Cardinal**, the charismatic Oglala Lakota actor from Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, serves up Shakespeare with a twist in *William Shakespeare's As You Like It: A Radical Retelling by Cliff Cardinal*, a startling plea for friendship.



The performing arts have the power to transcend time and bridge the present, past, and future. Tracing the threads of matrilinearity, the Marrakech-born choreographer **Radouan Mriziga**, with an exceptional cast of dancers, brings Amazigh culture to life in the extravagant and heartfelt *Libya*. The Flemish artist **Sarah Vanhee** reconnects with her grandmothers in *Mémé*, a work of memory



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and healing people by extraordinary presences. The Zimbabwean choreographer **nora chipaumire** brings together 20 artists, musicians, singers, and dancers in her stirring opera *Nehanda*—a monumental work of art lasting five hours that evokes the memory of an anti-colonial uprising. **Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory**, multidisciplinary artist and winner of the prestigious Sobey Art Award, directs *Qaumma*. Written in collaboration with the iconic Nunavut actor **Vinnie Karetak**, this piece takes its name from the light of the oil lamps kept burning by Inuit women, who serve as guardians of their families and culture.

Many shows at FTA blur the boundaries of dance and theatre. An already legendary work from New York's independent theatre scene, *Bronx Gothic* by the choreographer **Okwui Okpokwasili** shows the entanglement of violence and desire in the life of a young black girl. Choreographer and performer **Dana Michel** brings her unique theatrical language to an atypical space, where she presents her new solo *MIKE*, a reflection on the adaptability of workplaces. An influential figure on the experimental dance scene, **Ellen Furey** presents *Lay Hold to the Softest Throat*—a music and performance piece infused with sorcery and the teachings of Grotowski. In *The Beach and Other Stories*, the dancer and choreographer **Maria Kefirova** transforms herself into a storyteller surrounded by a sea of photographs.

From May 24 to June 8 2023

Two shows are also offered online, making them available to spectators wherever they are: *Reminiscencia* and *The Making of Pinocchio*.

Video excerpts of the shows are available at fta.ca

FTA PLAYGROUNDS

Presented by Hydro-Québec

The extensive free programming in FTA Playgrounds features some 50 activities for everyone to enjoy: talks, debates, workshops to get you moving, intimate conversations with artists, and the infamous FTA parties at the Quartier général.

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Decolonial Ecology Day

This day of reflection builds upon the understanding that in order to resolve the environmental crisis, we must take into account the social and racial inequalities inherited from colonialism and imperialism. Human rights activist and visual artist **Katsi'tsakwas Ellen Gabriel** will deliver the opening speech. Creating a link between Sápmi and Nunavut, choreographer **Elle Sofe Sara** and artist **Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory** offer a vision of land-based ecology. Gathered alongside **Kama La Mackerel**, an artist and educator who takes apart colonial ideas with relish, the younger generation speaks out. The circular economy-based organization **Écoscéno** shares solutions that mitigate the environmental impact of cultural production.

Presented by Le Devoir

Nigamon/Tunai

As part of a creative laboratory, Émilie Monnet and her collaborator Waira Nina Jacanamijoy will present the results of their artistic process, nurtured by ten years of exchange and solidarity between their Anishinaabe and Inga communities.

The 5 à 7

Decolonial Love: author and journalist Véronik Picard leads a discussion of both personal and political issues with three women artists, activists, and thinkers. Dana Michel and writer and editor Michael Nardone launch the book **Yellow Towel: A Score**, to celebrate Yellow Towel's 10th anniversary. And APASQ dedicates a conversation to the portrait of legendary set designer, **Danièle Lévesque**.

In Conversation

Gisèle Vienne's shape-shifting œuvre involves puppets and mannequins, masks and dolls, which produce a unique sense of presence on stage. She will discuss her work with the Popular University of Puppetry Arts. **Emily Johnson**, Yup'ik artist and activist engages with a network of collaborators through her project *Being Future Being*—a speculative architecture of Indigenous empowerment. **Adèle Haenel** offers a courageous recollection of the #metoo movement and the Brazilian choreographer **Lia Rodrigues** talks about her artistic, pedagogical, and social project in the heart of Rio de Janeiro's Maré favela, that is upending hierarchies and challenging our assumptions about dance.

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Workshops for Everyone and All

With the help of one of *Vástádus eana's* singers, discover the history and technique behind joik, the vocal music of the Sámi people. **Queer Bodies, Life Drawing:** through freehand sketching and spontaneous writing, queer bodies become living models. *Travelling the World of Dreams* is a workshop for young dreamers (6-12 year olds), conceived to expand on the world of *La chambre des enfants*.

Screendance under the Stars

As night falls, on the Esplanade Tranquille, discover a rich selection of screendance curated by Regards Hybrides.

Get Moving

At noon, join us at the QG for an activity to **waken the body** and mind: voice, dance, or Franklin Method. **Audience Warm Up**: Before some performances, artists will offer a customized warm-up to sharpen your senses.

From May 24 to June 8 2023

Post-Show Talks

After some shows, stay a while and enjoy a post-show talk with the artists.

FTA Playgrounds for Professionals

These activities for artists and theatre and dance professionals include the FTA Clinics, workshops with artists **Rosana Cade** and **Ivor MacAskill**, an intergenerational conversation about street dance practices led by **Crazy Smooth**, a talk about **Theatre and the Climate Catastrophe**, and a discussion about **Creative Technical Direction**.

Presented by Caisse Desjardins de la Culture

THE 24 SHOWS

Opening Show

Confidential until March 21, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

VÁSTÁDUS EANA — THE ANSWER IS LAND

Elle Sofe Sara Guovdageaidnu Esplanade Tranquille + Monument-National - Salle Ludger-Duvernay May 24 to 26

Born in the Arctic tundra, this polyphonic story of resistance, healing, and love pays tribute to all those who fight injustice.

North American premiere - Presented in association with Monument-National

A Big Outdoor Free Event

CREATION DESTRUCTION

Dana Gingras Animals of Distinction, Montréal Esplanade Tranquille May 25 to 27

Reasserting the power of collective action, Dana Gingras creates an explosion of sensations for us to experience: a star comes to life in the heart of downtown Montreal, accompanied by dancers and musicians. Quebec premiere – Presented by *Hydro-Québec* with the support of *Quartier des Spectacles Partnership*

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From May 24

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Dance Shows

BRONX GOTHIC

Okwui Okpokwasili Sweat Variant, Brooklyn Édifice Wilder - Espace danse, Studio-Théâtre June 6 to 8

A fundamental work of the last decade in New York, the mythical Bronx Gothic is revived by Wanjiru Kamuyu-a razor-sharp and trailblazing solo performance about a black girl's life in the Bronx. Canadian premiere - Presented in association with Fonds GB

ENCANTADO

Lia Rodrigues Lia Rodrigues Companhia de danças, Rio de Janeiro Usine C June 6 to 8

The legendary Lia Rodrigues choreographs a captivating manifesto delivered by 11 performers turned into encantados-or magical spirits-in an outpouring of beauty and emotion. Canadian premiere - Presented by Hotel ZER01 in association with Usine C

IN MY BODY

Crazy Smooth Centre de Création O Vertigo - CCOV + Bboyizm, Gatineau Monument-National - Salle Ludger-Duvernay June 2 to 4

Choreographer Crazy Smooth brings together nine amazing breakdancers aged 24 to 58 in a manifesto of movement: how to go beyond.

Confidential until March 21, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Montreal premiere - Presented by Urbania in association with Monument-National

LIBYA

Radouan Mriziga

A7LA5 vzwm, Marrakesh + Brussels Usine C May 25 to 27

Inspired by his Amazigh heritage, choreographer Radouan Mriziga orchestrates a radiant work in which eight performers revive our collective memory of ancient wisdom.

North American premiere - Presented in association with Usine C

NEHANDA

nora chipaumire Mutare + New York + Berlin Espace GO May 26 to 28

Radical choreographer nora chipaumire evokes the story of Nehanda in an opera with twenty dancers, musicians and singers. A call for resistance and reparations.

Canadian premiere — Presented in association with Espace GO

NAVY BLUE

Oona Doherty OD Works, Belfast Place des Arts - Théâtre Maisonneuve May 30 to June 1

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Oona Doherty, the brilliant choreographer from Belfast, is shaking up the world of contemporary dance with her visceral honesty and her works haunted by Northern Ireland's past. A furiously vital dance.

North American premiere - Presented by La Presse with the support of Institut Français in association with Place des Arts



THE BEACH AND OTHER STORIES

Maria Kefirova Montreal Édifice Wilder - Espace danse, Espace Bleu June 2 to 4

For Maria Kefirova, images are rivers of meaning. *The Beach and Other Stories* is a solo piece on photographic infiltration that seeks to give shape to our imaginary worlds.

Co-produced by Festival TransAmériques + World Premiere - Presented in association with Agora de la danse + Tangente

Theatre Shows

CISPERSONNAGES EN QUÊTE D'AUTEURICE

From May 24Catherine Bourgeoisto June 8 2023Joe Jack et John, MontréalEspace LibreMay 31 to June 3

The company Joe Jack & John never resists the temptation to gum up our collective works. Its latest opus is a pitch-black comedy featuring a group of actors who explore the boundaries of their creative freedom. Co-produced by *Festival TransAmériques* + World premiere — Presented in association with *Espace Libre*

I/O

Dominique Leclerc Posthumains, Montréal Théâtre Prospero June 2 to 4

A mesmerizing piece of documentary theatre, *i*/O ponders our collective capacity to take up new possibilities, invent other futures, and rethink the fact that we are finite.

Confidential until March 21, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. Presented in association with Théâtre Prospero

QAUMMA

Vinnie Karetak + Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory Iqaluit

Monument-National - Studio Hydro-Québec June 3 to 6

Prodigious Inuk artist Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory and her collaborator Vinnie Karetak, an iconic actor from Nunavut tackles the forced displacements that shaped the lives of their ancestors and their collective memory.

Co-produced by Festival TransAmériques + World premiere - Presented with the support of Fondation Cole in association with Monument-National

ĽÉTANG

Gisèle Vienne DACM / Compagnie Gisèle Vienne, Strasbourg Usine C May 31 to June 3

Unsettling, uncompromising, and subversive, this short play combines the personal and the political through a teenager's rebellion against family and society.

North American premiere - Presented with the support of Institut Français in association with Usine C

LA CHAMBRE DES ENFANTS

Théâtre Rouge du Conservatoire

L'eau du bain, Chelsea

June 3 + 4

Nancy Bussières + Anne-Marie Ouellet + Thomas Sinou

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In an open, luminous room, the dreams of children take on shape and colour, leading you on a voyage through oneiric landscapes that will stay with you forever!

Laurence Rajotte-Soucy 514 513 1235 laurence@rugicomm.ca Quebec premiere - Presented in association with Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Montréal





MÉMÉ

Sarah Vanhee CAMPO, Brussels Centre du Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui June 5 to 7

In this ode to matriarchal relationships, Sarah Vanhee stages an intimate conversation, both necessary and celebratory, to liberate our grandmothers from the burden of invisible toil.

North American premiere - Presented in association with Centre du Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui

REMINISCENCIA

Malicho Vaca Valenzuela Le Insolente Teatre, Santiago of Chili La Chapelle Scènes Contemporaines + Online June 4 to 6

From May 24 to June 8 2023

Malicho Vaca Valenzuela, an artist belonging to the rising Chilean generation, delves into the bowels of the Internet in a compelling and immersive experience that is part fairy tale, part documentary.

North American premiere - Presented in association with La Chapelle Scènes Contemporaines

SOLILOQUIO

Tiziano Cruz Buenos Aires Place Émilie-Gamelin + Le National May 28 to 30

A festive procession followed by a poignant performance meant to exorcize centuries of injustice and to shine a light on Indigenous cultures. A necessary work of art.

North American premiere - Presented by Fugues with the support of Fondation Cole in association with Le National

Confidential until March 21, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

TABLEAU FINAL DE L'AMOUR

Larry Tremblay + Angela Konrad LA FABRIK, Montréal Usine C June 1 to 3

A scenic adaptation of Larry Tremblay's passionate novel, between agony and ecstasy, based on the life and work of Francis Bacon. Presented in association with Usine C

THE MAKING OF PINOCCHIO

Rosana Cade + Ivor MacAskill Glasgow Théâtre Rouge du Conservatoire May 25 to 27 Webcast May 24 to June 8

Moving between personal testimony and formal experimentation, The Making of Pinocchio explores the facets of a magical experience of the world in a tale of love and transition.

North American premiere - Presented in association with Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Montréal

THE SHADOW WHOSE PREY THE HUNTER BECOMES

Back to Back Theatre Geelong Théâtre Prospero May 26 to 29

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A hilarious townhall meeting in which thorny questions are raised about human rights, cognitive diversity, sexual politics and the domination of artificial intelligence.

Canadian Premiere — Presented in association with Théâtre Prospero + Carrefour international de théâtre (Québec)



WHITE OUT

Nancy Bussières + Anne-Marie Ouellet + Thomas Sinou

L'eau du bain, Chelsea Théâtre Rouge du Conservatoire June 2 to 4

A true immersion in the world of theatre company L'eau du bain, offering a vertiginous and sensory theatrical world, dream-like and disorienting.

Montreal premiere — Présentation en collaboration avec Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Montréal

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S AS YOU LIKE IT, A RADICAL RETELLING BY CLIFF CARDINAL

Cliff Cardinal

Crow's Theatre, Toronto Maison Théâtre June 1 to 3

From May 24 to June 8 2023

Cliff Cardinal takes over the Forest of Arden, allowing long-ignored voices to be heard. An invitation for each of us to consider reconciliation from within the very cells of our bodies.

Montreal premiere - Presented in association with Maison Théâtre

Performance

LAY HOLD TO THE SOFTEST THROAT

Ellen Furey Montréal La Chapelle Scènes Contemporaines May 28 to June 1

Lay Hold to the Softest Throat is an invitation into a vibrating space that is both soft and rough; it sings, dances, plays, and swings from the spiritual to the frivolous.

Co-produced by Festival TransAmériques + World premiere - Co-presented by La Chapelle Scènes Contemporaines

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MIKE

Dana Michel SCORP CORPS, Montréal UQAM Pavillon Sherbrooke, Salle polyvalente June 1 to 4

Dana Michel presents *MIKE*, an epic work about work culture. From the margins comes a silent rebellion, taking its time and yours, utopianly yours.

Co-produced by Festival TransAmériques + North American premiere - Presented in association with UQAM - Coeur des sciences



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WELCOME TO THE QG

Free admission at all times

Agora Hydro-Québec du Coeur des sciences de l'UQAM 175 Président-Kennedy Ave. / Place-des-Arts Metro The Ouartier général of the Festival welcomes all festivale

The Quartier général of the Festival welcomes all festivalgoers! By day it is a place for encounters, for debating ideas. After the shows, it becomes the place to drink, eat and dance!

TICKETS

March 21 at 6:30 p.m. to April 9 at midnight, 2023

Sale of discount packages 4, 8, 12 + shows

March 28, 2023, at noon

From May 24 to June 8 2023

All single tickets go on sale. Reduced rates for under 30 and over 65.

Discount packages are the most economical way to enjoy the Festival

4 shows and more	20 % off
8 shows and more	30 % off
12 shows and more	35 % off

How to purchase discount packages and single tickets Online

fta.ca

By phone

Confidential until March 21, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. 514 844 3822 / 1 866 984 3822

March 22 to May 23 Tuesday to Thursday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

May 24 to June 8 Everyday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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From May 24 to June 8 2023

The FTA thanks its partners for their generous support

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