



Photos: Suzanne O'Neill

## ON TOUR... TO CHINA!

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Montreal, Monday, August 7, 2017—The dance company for young audiences **Bouge de là** will travel to **China** from **August 7 to 21** at the invitation of Art Space for Kids (ASK). It will present **two series** of performances of *The 26 Letter Dance*, the **first international performance** in the company's history!

### TWO BUSY WEEKS AHEAD

Bouge de là's tour to China begins with a series of 4 performances at the Beijing Comedy Theatre of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, from August 11 to 13. It then heads to Tianjin, where dancers have been invited to conduct 2 creative dance workshops at the Zhi Hui Shan Arts Centre, on August 14. To conclude the tour, the team will take to the road again, this time to Jinan to give 6 performances at the Shandong Grand Theatre, from August 17 to 20.

### THE COMPANY'S FIRST TOUR OUTSIDE OF CANADA

After more than **1000 performances** since its foundation in 2000, and into its **7th original production**, Bouge de là finally prepares for its first ever overseas performance. Hélène Langevin, the company's Artistic Director and Choreographer, declared, "Given the show's subject matter, it is quite remarkable that our very first international tour will take place in a country that uses an entirely different alphabet from ours! And it should be acknowledged—with pride!—that *The 26 Letter Dance* is so visually impressive that a Chinese organization has requested its presentation. At the same time, dance is a universal language that transcends borders." Bouge de là's Executive Director Amélie Gauthier enthusiastically agrees: "This tour to China is an outstanding opportunity! We met with Forrina Chen from Art Space for Kids at CINARS last November, and she was immediately impressed with *The 26 Letter Dance* artistic proposal. Since then, everything possible has been done to bring the project to fruition, and the adventure has been a complete thrill! It is our sincere wish and expectation that our new partnership with ASK is the beginning of a long-term collaboration!" Bouge de là would like to thank the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ) as well as the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) which supported this tour.

TO BE CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE!

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### **ABOUT THE 26 LETTER DANCE**

An interactive, multidisciplinary alphabet primer, *The 26 Letter Dance* is a journey into the world of letters and words. Physically and intellectually engaged in the piece, the young spectator is an active participant in this kaleidoscope rich in colours and textured dance.

In this bold and playful work, the choreographer H el ene Langevin invites children to take part in a unique experience where they not only see a dance performance but actively participate in the various tableaux that punctuate the piece—loosely structured miniatures. The show gets underway with A of course, with Z the last to take his leave. In between, the letters in this alphabet book embody a plethora of words, meanings, emotions and tones of voice.

Created in September 2016 at the Maison culturelle et communautaire in Montr al North, *The 26 Letter Dance* is a very contemporary and poetic piece that expands the frontiers of performance for young audiences and turns the conventions of theatre inside out. Since its premiere, it was performed 51 times in 2016–2017, and about sixty performances are already scheduled for 2017–2018.

### **BOUGE DE L A, RESIDENT COMPANY IN MONTR AL NORTH**

Bouge de l a, one of the rare professional dance companies in Qu ebec devoted exclusively to creating dance presentations for children, became in 2006 the resident company at the Maison culturelle et communautaire in Montr al North. Every year, the borough offers the company use of its facilities to develop and create new dance works or to remount pieces about to go on tour. Bouge de l a is proud to present the world premieres of its shows to the citizens of Montr al North and is actively involved in its community.

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SOURCE

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