

MAYDAY

TRANSLATE INTO GESTURES THE STATE OF THINGS AND BEINGS





WOULD

55 min

Back from Vancouver and preparing for its departure to Rio de Janeiro with *Animal Triste*, MAYDAY will be in Montreal this winter for the anticipated return of *WOULD*. Following an undeniable success at Usine C in 2015 and a tour around the province of Quebec, the piece marks its return in the city at La Chapelle, on December 11, 12, 14 and 15.

Drawing its inspiration from all possible futures, *WOULD* is a meditation on potentiality, utopia, and our mania for projecting ourselves into the future.

Imagining the best, fearing the worst.

And adapting as best we can to the present. Fuelled by the energy of two powerful dancers, *WOULD* is a reflection on the failures, falls and miscues that inevitably mark our imperfect paths. Marc Boivin and Kate Holden confront each other like two wild beasts warily approaching each other.

For this piece, Marc Boivin received the 2014 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Performance—Male. Mélanie Demers received the CALQ Prize for Best choreographic work of the 2014-2015 season with *WOULD*.

WHAT THE PRESS SAYS

“We feel that Mélanie Demers, in dialogue with both career interpreters, touches the core of her approach: the power of words relieved of any story of temptation, the game in line to dance, without any pretension.”

F. Doyon, *Le Devoir*, apr. 15

“We can only applaud the consistency of the choreographic language of Mélanie Demers, the excellence of the two interpreters and the address with which the bilingual text has been included.”

L. Renaud, *Revue JEU*, apr. 15

“No wonder *WOULD* has earned Marc Boivin an award for his performance as well as nominations for choreography and sound design.”

I. Gagnon-Paradis, *La Presse*, apr. 15

“Somehow, we see both the victories and the defeats at the same time, and that is Demers’ greatness as a choreographer.”

P. Citron, *The globe and mail*, sept. 13



WEB

<http://maydaydanse.ca/would>

TEASER

<https://vimeo.com/143998406>



MÉLANIE DEMERS

A multidisciplinary artist, Mélanie Demers founded in Montreal her own dance company, MAYDAY, in 2007. Her work has charmed by its originality, intensity and its complexity, exploring the darker zones of the human condition. Socially engaged as an artist, Mélanie Demers travelled to teach dance in Kenya, Niger, Brazil and Haiti, amongst other destinations. The harsh reality of the developing countries challenged her understanding of the role of art in society. Addressing political issues in a poetic form, *Les Angles Morts* (2006), *Sense of Self* (2008), *Junkyard/Paradise* (2010), *Goodbye* (2012) and *MAYDAY remix* (2014) have all been created from this perspective. And lately, *WOULD* (2013-2015) won the CALQ Prize for best choreography, highlighting the artistic excellence of a work presented in Québec. In 2016, Mélanie Demers began a new creation cycle with *Animal Triste* and *Icône Pop*; both works are touring internationally. Last August, *Icône Pop* was awarded the Buddies in Bad Times Vanguard Award for Risk and Innovation by Toronto's SummerWorks Performance Festival. Recently, Mélanie Demers was invited to work as a guest choreographer at the Skånes Dansteater in Malmö (Sweden) for the creation of *Something About Wilderness*, and at OperaEstate Festival in Bassano (Italy). To date, she choreographed twenty works and was presented in some thirty cities across Europe, America, Africa and Asia.

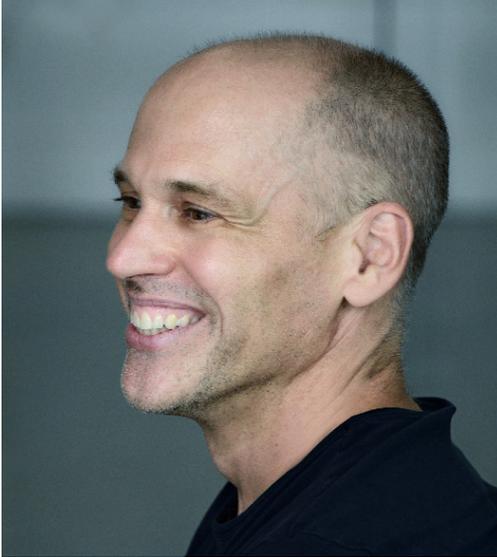
MAYDAY

MAYDAY chooses to be a place of exchange and reflection, a sort of artistic think tank, for the artists working with Mélanie Demers. They come from various spheres, some from Montreal, home base of the company, others from around the world. Their personalities are both dazzling and eclectic. Here, the maturation of the work is a collective process. The physicality, rhythm and images used in the choreographies are characteristic elements of MAYDAY's works, which find their meaning when encountering with the public. MAYDAY uses the stage as a platform to examine the role of the artist and uses the theatre as a space to meditate on the fate of the world and individuals. Its works, unquestionably committed, are simultaneous distress signals and an invitation to change. Since its creation in 2007, the company develops international collaborations and was already presented in America, Europe, Asia and Africa. As its two latest creations *Animal Triste* (2016) and *Icône Pop* (2016) are touring the world, MAYDAY prepares *Danse Mutante* (2019), an ambitious choreographic relay taking root in Montreal, which reinvents the concepts of collaboration and co-creation.

MAYDAYDANSE.CA

PERFORMERS

MARC BOIVIN



Marc Boivin is a performer, improviser, teacher, and choreographer. He began his dance career at Le Groupe de la Place Royale under the directorship of Peter Boneham before joining Ginette Laurin and her company O Vertigo Danse in 1985. Since 1991, he has worked as an independent dancer, performing mainly for Louise Bédard, Sylvain Émard, Jean-Pierre Perreault, Catherine Tardif, Tedd Robinson and since 2007, in some of his own creations.

He has been affiliated with the École de danse contemporaine de Montreal since 1987 and regularly guest teaches and choreographs in schools and companies across Canada. Since 2006, Marc Boivin is president of the Fondation Jean-Pierre Perreault. From 2005 to 2010, he has also sat on the Conseil des arts de Montréal and chaired the Regroupement québécois de la danse between 2010 and 2014.

For his performance in the piece *WOULD*, choreographed by Mélanie Demers, Marc Boivin received the Dora Mavor Moore Award during the summer of 2014.

MARCBOIVIN.CA

KATE HOLDEN



An award winning dance artist, Kate Holden has had the pleasure of interpreting the works of many esteemed Canadian choreographers, including Peggy Baker, Roberto Campanella, Mélanie Demers, Robert Desrosiers, David Earle, Sylvain Émard, Sasha Ivanochko, James Kudelka, Laurence Lemieux, Emily Molnar, Andrea Nann, and Yvonne Ng; with performances across North America, France, Britain, Holland and Singapore. Kate Holden spent five seasons as a company member of Dancemakers under the artistic direction of Michael Trent and has also been a dancer with the Danny Grossman Dance Company for two seasons. She is a graduate of the School of Toronto Dance Theatre and Etobicoke School of the Arts.

In addition to her work as a dancer, Kate Holden is very active in the dance community as a teacher and producer. With Kate Franklin, she founded firstthingsfirst productions to commission and produce new contemporary dance works by Canadian choreographers. The company has facilitated the creation and production of 10 new dance works since 2007. Their 2013 production *with a trace* was nominated for ten Dora Mavor Moore Awards.

KATEHOLDEN.CA

Kate Holden is a member of the Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists, and was on the board of directors of the Ontario Chapter from 2003 to 2008.

CREDITS

DIRECTION, TEXTS and CHOREOGRAPHY: MÉLANIE DEMERS WITH THE COLLABORATION OF THE PERFORMERS
INTERPRETATION: MARC BOIVIN, KATE HOLDEN MUSIC JOSHUA VAN TASSEL ORIGINAL LIGHTING: ALEXANDRE PILON-GUAY
REHEARSAL DIRECTION: ANNE-MARIE JOURDENAI TECHNICAL DIRECTION: OLIVIER CHOPINET VOICE WORK:
SABRINA REEVES COSTUMES: MÉLANIE DEMERS WITH THE COLLABORATION OF THE PERFORMERS
PRODUCTION: MAYDAY and FIRSTTHINGSFIRST

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Photos:

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Page 1 - *WOULD* (Marc Boivin, Kate Holden) © Mathieu Doyon
Page 2 - *WOULD* (Marc Boivin, Kate Holden) © Jeremy Mimmagh
Page 3 - *La Nobody* (Mélanie Demers) © David Cannon
Page 4 - Marc Boivin © Michael Slobodian / Kate Holden © Aleksander Antonijevic