

**MAYDAY**

**DANSE MUTANTE**

**MÉLANIE DEMERS**





# DANSE MUTANTE

A choreographic relay conceived by **Mélanie Demers** with the collaboration of choreographers **Ann Liv Young**, **Kettly Noël** and **Ann Van den Broek**

**Danse Mutante** is a duet performed by Francis Ducharme and Riley Sims destined to multiple mutations as it will pass through the hands of four fierce female choreographers scattered on three continents: **Mélanie Demers** (Montreal), **Ann Liv Young** (New York), **Kettly Noël** (Bamako) and **Ann Van den Broek** (Antwerp/Rotterdam). According to a set of parameters (working with two performers, a limited period of creation, duration, etc.), each choreographer is invited to create her own version of the piece by remixing, reinventing and corrupting as she pleases its last version.

The project will culminate in Montreal in the fall of 2019 with a marathon event at Agora de la Danse in Montreal.

**Danse Mutante** received co-production support from the **Fonds national de création**, the **Centre national des Arts** in Ottawa, the **Agora de la danse** in Montreal and the **Boulevard Theater Festival** in the Netherlands.



## ORIGINAL VERSION

Picture a Greco-Roman arena or a ring in a church basement. In this context, the fighting is ceremonial and the combat is primarily internal. Relationships are polite, sex is disembodied, and identities are unreal. Thoughts are scrutinized, confessions are public, yet the characters remain masked. In this strange dance, reality is muddled and impulses are stifled. Throughout, we hear an insistent chant that suggests a hymn, a nursery rhyme, a liturgical chant, a pop song - so many ways to express a little about oneself.

### CHOREOGRAPHER MÉLANIE DEMERS (MONTREAL)

[WWW.MAYDAYDANSE.CA](http://WWW.MAYDAYDANSE.CA)



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* (2015) won the CALQ Prize for best choreography. In 2016, Mélanie Demers began a new creation cycle with *Animal Triste* and *l'cône Pop*; both works are touring internationally. 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.

# MUTATION 1



Somewhere in between a circus tent, a gym, a gas station, a zoo, a forest, a music hall, they are women, men, children, dolls, wild beasts. They play by the rules of a game which is enjoyable but cruel. We are in an undefined era but it definitely speaks to today's situation. Everyone at each other's mercy. But above all at the mercy of an all-knowing voice, the characters are grotesque and crude. Their names, age, sex, and ideas are in flux. And all this nebulosity is really talking about us.

## CHOREOGRAPHER

**ANN LIV YOUNG (NEW YORK)**

[WWW.ANNLIVYOUNG.COM](http://WWW.ANNLIVYOUNG.COM)



Ann Liv Young is a choreographer, performer and artistic director born in North Carolina in the United States. She has been creating performances for more than 15 years. She was one of the youngest artists whose work was presented in major venues in New York and Europe, such as the Brooklyn Museum, The Kitchen, Dance Theatre Workshop, P.S. 122, the Flea Theatre, Laban Center London, Impulstanz, Springdance, The Arches, Tanz Im August, the Festival Donau, Melkweg, the Théâtre de la Bastille, Brute-Wien, Gender Bender and Inkonst, among others. A graduate from the prestigious dance program of the Hollins University in Virginia, she also studied at the Laban Centre in London. Her work was acclaimed by the Art Forum, The New York Times, The Village Voice and The Guardian, among other publications, and was presented in Michael Blackwood's documentary *New York Dance: States of Performance* (2010). Often described as provocative, Ann Liv Young's works surprise by their energy and their vitality.

# MUTATION 2



In the tropics. A furtive intimacy. An intrusion. A violation. A rape. A quarrel. A ritual. Some dressing-up. Much stripping down. A period of time, suspended. A rumour. A territory. A quest. A conquest. An elevation. It's all there in this tropicalization. A desire to look at the world through a different prism—another tropism. A determination to adjust our lenses, cast off our blinders, change our filters, calibrate our rhythm, make a world which isn't made for us our own.

## CHOREOGRAPHER KETTLY NOËL (BAMAKO)

[WWW.DONKOSEKO.COM](http://WWW.DONKOSEKO.COM)



Kettly Noël's creations are forged in contact with bitter realities. *Tichelbé* (2002), a dance for two, made her stand out from the choreographic renewal then underway in Africa. The tension of an implacable brutality between man and woman. A burning in the body consumed the artist. *Errance* (2004) and *Je m'appelle Fanta Kaba* (2010) defied prohibitions on feminine and political representations of desire, sexuality, and prostitution.

Kettly Noël's most recent work is *Je ne suis plus une femme noire* (2015). A paradox. Convinced that Africa must pay attention to what it wants to say to the world, passionate about the idea that dance is one of the profound forces, she nevertheless depicts a future that transgresses all enclosures of ethnic identity. From this flows, for the spectator, the responsibility to go beyond clichés when considering dance in action, and Africa in the world.

# MUTATION 3

## CREATION IN AUGUST 2019

### MUTATION 3

Creative residency planned for August 2019 at Cultuurcentrum Berchem in Antwerp and at Theater Rotterdam in Rotterdam.

### CHOREOGRAPHER

### ANN VAN DEN BROEK (ANTWERP/ROTTERDAM)

[WWW.WARDWARD.BE](http://WWW.WARDWARD.BE)



In 2000, after an active and successful career as a dancer, Ann Van den Broek decided to dedicate herself entirely to growing and developing as a choreographer. She founded the dance company *WArd/waRD* and has been working on her uniquely characteristic body of work ever since. Early on in her career as a choreographer she developed her own movement language: *emotional minimalism*. Her work is often described as raw, dynamic, radical, uncompromising and brutally honest. It is based on fundamental, yet simple human needs, such as making contact with others, satisfying needs and survival. At the beginning of her career, Ann Van den Broek focused primarily on the body in movement. Gradually, the use of live video, live sound and sign language grew in importance.

Ann Van den Broek's work has been nominated several times for the Zwaan (Swan), the most prestigious dance prize in the Netherlands presented by The VSCD (Dutch Association of Theatre and Concert Hall Directors), and again this year for her latest work: *Accusations. The Black Piece* (in 2015) and *Co(te)lette* (in 2008) both won the Zwaan for Most Impressive Dance Production.



# VIDEOS DOCUMENTARY CAPSULE

## TEASER

[Marathon | Danse Mutante](#)

## FULL LENGTH

[Original version of Danse Mutante](#)

## DOCUMENTARY CAPSULE

The documentary capsule were produced with the support and in collaboration with the Jean-Pierre Perreault Foundation

[Capsule 1 | Montreal - creation of original version](#)

[Capsule 2 | Montreal part 2](#)

[Capsule 3 | New York - creation of mutation 1](#)

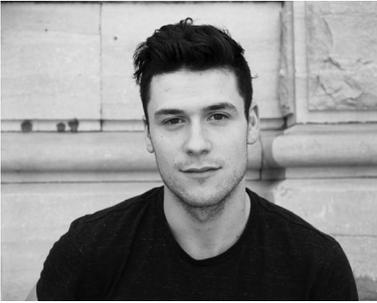
[Capsule 4 | New York part 2](#)

[Capsule 5 | Bamako - creation of mutation 2](#)

[Capsule 6 | Bamako part 2](#)

# COLLABORATORS

## RILEY SIMS - PERFORMER



A graduate of The School of Toronto Dance Theatre's Program in Contemporary Dance and the Wexford School for the Arts' Musical Theatre program, Riley Sims has worked with Tedd Robinson, Mélanie Demers, Frédérick Gravel, Noam Gagnon... Sims is the Artistic Director of Social Growl Dance, established in 2012. The company has presented work at the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto, the SummerWorks Performance Festival and at Dance Matters, amongst others. Social Growl is currently in creation for Sims' third full-length work *Amorous Playlist* premiering in Toronto next March 2019. Riley Sims was recently the recipient of the Dance Ontario Creative Partnerships Commission, which presented Social Growl's quartet *Old New Borrowed Blue* in Toronto at Dance Ontario Weekend 2018.

## FRANCIS DUCHARME - PERFORMER



A graduate from Collège Lionel-Groulx's Theatre program, Francis Ducharme developed his career in theatre, cinema and dance. He performed in about 15 plays and worked with directors such as Alice Ronfard, Serge Denoncourt, Lorraine Pinal, Luce Pelletier, Brigitte Poupart and Catherine Bourgeois. He was cast in the movies *Chasse Galerie* (J.P. Duval), *Corbo* (M. Denis), *Les Signes Vitaux* (S. Deraspe), *La Capture* (C. Laure) and *C.R.A.Z.Y.* (J.-M. Vallée). An iconoclastic artist, he danced in the Québec choreographer Dave St-Pierre's works *Un peu de tendresse bordel de merde*, *La pornographie des âmes* and *Le no man's land show*. He worked with the Belgian choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and toured in *Babel*, a piece directed by Damien Jalet.

## ALEXANDRE PILON-GUAY - LIGHTING DESIGN

Alexandre Pilon-Guay graduated from College Lionel-Groulx in 2003. He first worked for Cirque Eloize and numerous corporate events. He then worked as technical director for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens of Montreal, before devoting himself fully to lighting design. In the last years, he collaborated with choreographers Mélanie Demers, Virginie Brunelle, Frédérick Gravel, Dave St-Pierre, Lynda Gaudreau and Antonija Livingstone. In theatre, Alexandre was part of the team directed by Catherine Vidal adapting *Le Grand Cahier*. An artist in constant evolution, Alexandre Pilon-Guay is inspired by the body's gesture and its relationship with the surrounding space. His photographic work underlines this vision as well.



## ANGÉLIQUE WILLKIE - DRAMATURG

Angélique Willkie is an artist active in the dance, music, theatre, and circus communities. Trained at the School of Toronto Dance Theatre, she collaborated in many dance projects with the Ballets C de la B, company Karin Vyncke as well as Needcompany. As a singer, she collaborated with Zap Mama, dEUS, DAAU and Zita Swoon Group, amongst others. Along with her career as a performing artist, Angélique Willkie has been a teacher at the École Supérieure des Arts du Cirque in Brussels and at the École de danse contemporaine de Montréal. She has been teaching at Concordia University's contemporary dance department for several years now.



# MAYDAY/MÉLANIE DEMERS



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 has developed international collaborations and was already presented in America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

[WWW.MAYDAYDANSE.CA](http://WWW.MAYDAYDANSE.CA)

# PRODUCTION CALENDAR

## 2018

### APRIL

Residency at the Centre de Création O Vertigo (Montreal, Canada)  
Creation of the original version by Mélanie Demers

### MAY 25

Presentation of the original version as part of OFFTA (Montreal, Canada)

### JULY

Residency in New York (United States) - first part  
Creation of the mutation 1 by Ann Liv Young

### AUGUST 25-26

Presentation of the original version as part of the Festival B-Motion (Bassano del Grappa, Italy)

### DECEMBER

Residency at Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique (Montreal, Canada) - second part  
Creation of the mutation 1 by Ann Liv Young

## 2019

### JANUARY

Residency at the Centre culturel Donko Seko (Bamako, Mali)  
Creation of the mutation 2 by Kettly Noël

### FEBRUARY

Residency at Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique (Montreal, Canada) - second part  
Creation of the mutation 2 by Kettly Noël

### MAY 4

Presentation of the original version in Zürich Tanzt Festival

### AUGUST

Residency at Theaterfestival Boulevard ('s-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands) and residency in Rotterdam (Netherlands)  
Creation of the mutation 3 by Ann Van den Broek

### SEPTEMBER 17 TO 21

World premiere - Agora de la danse in Montréal

## 2020

### AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

European tour

## CONTACT

### MAYDAY/Mélanie Demers

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## MAYDAY'S NEXT TOUR DATES

August 2019 | Netherlands and Italy  
September 2019 | Israel  
February 2020 | USA and Canada  
March and April 2020 | France  
August 2020 | Netherlands  
September 2020 | Netherlands and France



This is one of the 200 exceptional projects funded through the Canada Council for the Arts' New Chapter program. With this \$35M investment, the Council supports the creation and sharing of the arts in communities across Canada.



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# MAYDAY

Member of Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique and Art Circulation

Associated company at the Agora de la danse

In artistic collaboration with the Centro per la Scena Contemporanea/Operaestate Festival