

## Dance takes centre stage at Place des Arts

**Montréal, April 15, 2008** – On Sunday, April 27, Place des Arts will open its doors to 125 dancers and performers who will occupy every nook and cranny of the Théâtre Maisonneuve, the Hall culturel and the outdoor Esplanade for the massive *SquatDanse* event organized for the enjoyment of dance lovers curious to discover surprising artistic performances.

Offering all these spaces at no charge, and assuming the costs for technical support and bringing in the public, Place des Arts is embarking on its second annual collaboration with the Regroupement québécois de la danse as the main partner of *SquatDanse*. Last year, this event attracted nearly 2,000 visitors!

Place des Arts is the leading venue for dance in Québec. During the 2006-2007 artistic season, some 120 contemporary, classic and folkloric dance performances were given at Place des Arts, fully 12% of the venue's total number of shows. These 120 performances attracted 150,000 spectators, or 17% of total attendance at Place des Arts for the season.

Théâtre Maisonneuve presents the greatest number of dance shows at Place des Arts. Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal and Danse Danse, among others, regularly perform in this hall. Other Québec and foreign companies also make use of the performance space. As well, the lobbies at Théâtre Maisonneuve act as an additional showcase, displaying a number of works inspired by the art of dance.

Place des Arts provides ongoing support for Québec choreographers and dancers by offering them residency space in which to create their works and rehearse on stage. Currently, Place des Arts' Cinquième Salle is hosting Victor Quijada and Anne Plamondon of the Rubberbandance Group. Also, the company O Vertigo set up its creation centre at Place des Arts in 2005, and uses the space for choreographic creation work, classes, internships and creation laboratories. Place des Arts also produces an annual series of dance shows in the Cinquième Salle featuring troupes from here and abroad.

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**Source:**

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