

## DUSK DANCES CELEBRATES 20 YEARS



**Dusk Dances**, Toronto's inescapable summer dance festival, is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. Dusk Dances Festival returns to Toronto's **Withrow Park** from **August 4-10, 2014** presenting six exciting dance pieces which are sure to exhilarate and fascinate audiences.

Featuring the artistry of internationally acclaimed dancers and choreographers, the 2014 season will be as entertaining and innovating as any season we've ever presented.

Hosted by the incomparable **Dan Watson**, this year's program features new and remounted works from Canadian artists with an immense breadth of experience:

- **Sylvie Bouchard - BoucharDanse** (Toronto) with "La vie". *The terrains of our lives vary from rivers, to meadows, to mountains, but the pounding of our own heart is something we should always remember to trust.*

- **Peter Chin - Tribal Crackling Wind** (Toronto) with "Through the Mask". *A classical mask dancer from Central Java and Cambodia meet in their dance regalia, perform their traditional dances of power and fierceness.*

- **Julia Aplin** (Toronto) with "Inner City Sirens, Part II". *Reigning World Champions in the sport of pairs synchronized swimming for petite pools!*

- **Milan Gervais - Human Playground** (Montreal) with "Run, the process". *They are four, in flight. Four women following a common path. Inspired by trajectories of bird flight and platoons of cyclists, this 10 minute female quartet is made to be experienced in an outdoor urban setting.*

- **Sis Robin Hibbert - COBA** (Toronto) with "Doun Doun Dance". *A playful tribute to Guinea's spirited Ku-Ku rhythm and the high-octane stick-drum dance traditionally performed by women from the Forest Region, Ku-Ku is played to mark the end of the harvest.*

- **Kate Franklin and Meredith Thompson** (Toronto) with "Incandescent". *Inspired by the lyrics of Leonard Cohen's Anthem, that involves five professional dancers and a large cast of movers of all ages and dance experience.*

**Dusk Dances** is an outdoor dance festival that brings high quality contemporary and traditional dance to public parks. As dusk descends, a theatrical host leads the audience - which invariably includes children, dog walkers and local residents - to eclectic dance pieces that unfold in different areas of the park. Choreographers from various backgrounds are invited to create a 10-minute dance piece inspired by the park's natural environment. Audiences are invited on a pay-what-you-can basis to an innovative site-specific festival, which is not only an artistic event but a social and cultural one as well.

**BE ENCHANTED! - DUSK DANCES 2014, Festival Director Sylvie Bouchard**  
**August 4-10** - Withrow Park (South of Danforth between Logan and Carlaw)

**Performances** nightly at 7:00 PM & Additional Thursday and Sunday Matinées at 2pm  
\* *Incandescent* and *Through the Mask* will not be performed on the 2 matinée performances  
Admission is **PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN - \$10 suggested minimum donation**

Visit [www.duskdances.ca/media](http://www.duskdances.ca/media) for artists' biographies and official images to be released in the media, and for information on other Dusk Dances events (Vancouver, Haliburton, Peterborough, Hamilton and Fort York).

For additional details, contact **Mikaël Lavogiez** at [media@duskdances.ca](mailto:media@duskdances.ca) / 416.707.2491





**Sylvie Bouchard - Festival Director**

« 20 years. So much has been done, yet, so much still to discover. Dusk Dances began with a strong desire to build bridges between dance artists and the general public, lower the theatre walls, and bring access to the art form. As a performer myself, I became curious about audiences for dance, and wanted to share this magical art form with many. I still remember the very first performance of Dusk Dances at Trinity Bellwoods Park, wondering.... Will anyone come to this? Today, Dusk Dances is an organization that has tremendous success, experience and knowledge, and we hope to continue leveraging these in the years to come. So many people made the growth of the event possible. People who worked passionately and diligently as staff members, artists, crew, hosts, musicians, and more. I have all of them to thank, as none of this would have been possible without their contribution.

*For this anniversary, nothing short of dazzling: six stunning dance pieces, an outstanding host, a surprise opening band (announced on June 22<sup>nd</sup>), performances throughout the city during the day, dance workshops, and more. As we reflect and look forward, let us celebrate the buoyancy of the dance scene, and continue to support our artists in their quest for public engagement through the arts. »*

- Sylvie Bouchard

*Biography*

**Sylvie Bouchard** is originally from Montréal and began her training there before moving to Toronto in 1983, to study at the School of The Toronto Dance Theatre. She subsequently joined The Toronto Dance Theatre in 1985 and performed nationally and internationally with them for 5 years. Sylvie has also performed with Kaeja d'Dance, Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers and Dancemakers and continues to work for many independent choreographers including Susie Burpee, Roger Sinha, Denise Fujiwara, Marie-Josée Chartier and Sashar Zarif. She was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore award for best performance for her solo *Cassiopeia*, which premiered at the DuMaurier Theatre in 1999.

In 1997, Sylvie Bouchard formed the company **CORPUS** with artistic partner David Danzon. Until 2008, she co-created and performed in 8 works through CORPUS, touring nationally internationally in theatres, as well as outdoor venues. She also co-choreographed and starred in the popular children's TV Series **Four-Square** on Treehouse TV. In 1993, Bouchard created **Dusk Dances**, a festival that presents dance in public parks. Dusk Dances then grew under the artistic direction of Bouchard and Danzon and through the Company CORPUS, until Bouchard was appointed sole festival director in 2008.

As an interpreter and choreographer Bouchard most recently created **La vie** for Mairéad Filgate which premiered at Dance: made in Canada / fait au Canada in 2011; presented and performed in **Histoire d'amour** (choreographed by Susie Burpee, Denise Fujiwara, Louis-Martin Charest and Sylvie Bouchard / Louis Laberge-Côté) as part of Danceworks Series in Toronto in 2012; created **L'envol** for The Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre which premiered at the Fleck in Toronto in 2012; and choreographed and performed in **L'implorante**, created with Le Théâtre La Tangente in 2012. As a performer, Bouchard was most recently part of the cast of **Eunoia** (choreographed by Denise Fujiwara) as part of Word Stage in Toronto, and performed **femme assise**, a solo work created by Marie-Josée Chartier, in Older & Reckless in Toronto in 2013. Ms. Bouchard is the recipient of the 2009 KM hunter award for artists in dance, and is the Artistic Director of **BoucharDanse** ([www.bouchardanse.com](http://www.bouchardanse.com)), a Company that serves as an umbrella for Ms. Bouchard's artistic endeavors.