

CanDance

Danse contemporaine
Tangente
www.tangente.qc.ca
840 Chénier Sherbrooke
salle de spectacles □ contemporary dance performances

Graphisme - Roger à Montréal



Danses contemporaines des Premières Nations

Mémoire de sang de Gaétan Gingras



Photo: Gaétan Gingras

Songs of Shär Cho de Michelle Olson
/ Raven Spirit Dance



Photo: Jay Armitage

The Threshing Floor de Santee Smith
et Michael Greyeyes / Kaha:Wi Dance Theatre



Photo: Don Lee

6, 7, 8 mars 2008 à 19h30 - 9 mars à 16h

Press kit

CanDance Touring Exchange : Indigenous Dancelands

**March 6, 7, 8 mars 2008 at 7 :30 pm
March 9 2008 at 4 pm**

**Tangente
840, Cherrier (métro Sherbrooke)
Tickets : (514) 525-1500
www.tangente.qc.ca**

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GAÉTAN GINGRAS

Mémoire de sang

Choreographer and dancer : **Gaétan Gingras**

Music composer : **François Beausoleil**

Costume designer : **Kasha Kwasniewska and Annie Gélinas**

Lighting designer : **Céline Desaulniers**



Mémoire de sang

Dedicated to exploring my heritage through personal journeys into native stories, beliefs and rituals, I strive to create modern expressions of my ancestors' culture. The inherent reverence native people held for the spirit animated physical world was manifested in their daily duties as well as many rituals held at different times throughout the year. Dance, music and stories served as powerful mediums through which the wisdom of this spirit-impregnated world was revealed and more direct relationship to it were made possible. My work often centers on discovering the relationship between the spirit and the matter, the word and the movement, the mind and the body. By focusing on finding bridges between spiritual and physical I hope to spark healing processes for some or simply make magic of dance a true experience for others.

Gaétan Gingras – choreographer, dancer

Gaétan Gingras, of Iroquois-Mohawk ancestry, began his training in various dance techniques during his College years in Drummondville, Québec - where he was born. He continued his studies at Concordia University in Montreal and at the Toronto Dance Theatre. Gaétan quickly became known for his strong interpretation skills and athletic presence and has been recognized and appreciated by such choreographers as Robert Desrosiers (Desrosiers Dance Theatre), Ginette Laurin (O Vertigo Danse) and Gilles Maheu (Carbone 14) with whom Gaétan has worked with on many internationally acclaimed productions. In 1993 Gaétan was a soloist in the native dance production, *In the Land of the Spirit*, produced by John Kim Bell, which toured across Canada. This important project initiated Gaétan's search for his own native roots, which subsequently influenced Gaétan's future artistic choices as a creator. As a parallel to his career as an interpreter and dance teacher, Gaétan has always nurtured his passion for creating dance. After choreographing numerous works for students' performances back in his native College of Drummondville, in 1993, he presented his work as an independent choreographer for the first time at the Toronto Fringe Dance Festival with three short works. Invited by Dena Davida of Tangente the following year, he choreographed *Sentier Inconnu* for the *Ascendance* series in Montreal. Since then, invited regularly by Tangente and participating at various festivals and venues, Gaétan has created a dozen choreographic works. In 1998, the Clifford E. Lee Foundation recognized Gaétan's outstanding creations and contributions to the culture of native people by being named the choreographer in residency at The Banff Center for the Arts. After a few years of absence from the dance scene in order to devote his time to the development of new skills, Gaétan is back with new creations.

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MICHELLE OLSON / RAVEN SPIRIT DANCE
Songs of Shär Cho

Choreographers et dancers: **Michelle Olson** and
Kimberly Tuson
Music: extrait de *Long Walk Home* de Peter Gabriel
Editing music: **Bill Costin** et **Wayne Lavallée**
Rehearsal: **Cara Siu**
Set and lighting design: **Julie Martens**
Costume and set construction: **Monica Strehlke**



Songs of Shär Cho

Songs of Shär Cho is a multi-media contemporary dance performance inspired by the land and the culture of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people of the Yukon. This excerpt is a tribute to the Porcupine caribou herd and their long journey back to the calving grounds.

Michelle Olson

Michelle is a member of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and the Artistic Director of Raven Spirit Dance. Her work as a performer and creator embrace both realms of theatre and dance. She received a Bachelor of University Studies at the University of New Mexico and continued her training at the Aboriginal Arts Program at the Banff Centre and with Full Circle First Nations Performance Ensemble Training Program. Other choreographic credits include the dance piece for young audiences, *Raven Restores the Sun to the Sky*, the theatre/dance work *The Place Between* in collaboration with Lisa C. Ravensbergen and Yvette Nolan, the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards 2006 and the dance/puppet piece, *Luk T'äga Näche'*. Michelle recently choreographed the Vancouver Opera's production of *Mozart's The Magic Flute*. She also choreographed for Native Earth Performing Art's production of *The Death of a Chief*, which premiered at the National Arts Centre in February, 2008. She is looking forward to her site-specific work, *Tawan (Illuminations)* in collaboration with dancers from the EagleSong Dancers. And yes, she can't wait to get back North to Dawson City for the summer, for all that berry-picking, fresh salmon and Raven Spirit's 7th season at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre.

ravenspiritdance.com

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SANTEE SMITH et MICHAEL GREYEVES / KAHA:WI DANCE THEATRE ***The Threshing Floor***

Produced by Kaha:wi Dance Theatre and Indigenous Performance
Created by Artistic Director/Choreographer: **Santee Smith**
Co-Choreographer: **Michael Greyeyes**
Composer: **Russell Wallace** and **Donald Quan**
Art Designer: **Shelley Niro**
Original Lighting Design: **Don White**
Seamstress: **Leigh Smith**
Video Editor: **Roger Duck** of Digital Video



In an empty house, a couple re-explores their lives together on "love's, threshing-floor." Past and present collide, as they remember their journey into the emotional landscapes of ecstasy, betrayal, and loss.

Santee Smith – *choreographer, dancer*

Santee Smith is from the Mohawk Nation, Turtle Clan and lives on Six Nations Reserve, Ontario. She is the Artistic Director and choreographer for Kaha:wi Dance Theatre an innovative contemporary Aboriginal dance company. As an artist, she is committed to sharing traditional and contemporary stories of her indigenous culture. Santee holds a Masters Degree in Dance from York University. She attended the National Ballet School from 1982-1988. Santee expanded her knowledge of human movement by completing an Honours Degree in Kinesiology at McMaster University. Santee was an integral part of the Aboriginal Dance Project at the Banff Centre for the Arts throughout 1997-2001. In 1996 Smith began creating and performing her choreography including works *Kaha:wi*, *Here On Earth*, *A Story Before Time*, *A Constellation of Bones* and *A Soldier's Tale*. Santee presents her work nationally and internationally and is the founder of the inaugural Living Ritual: World Indigenous Dance Festival. Her work was featured on *Freedom* series with host Robert Desrosier and *Dancing with Spirit* series by Soaring Heart Pictures both aired on Bravo!TV and *The Sharing Circle* aired on APTN. Santee is the recipient of the K.M. Hunter Award for Dance and the Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award for Dance 2006. Santee will be presenting KDT's evening of work, *Fragmented Heart* which includes, *Tripped Up Blues*, *The Threshing Floor* and *A Constellation of Bones* at the Canada Dance Festival 2008.

Michael Greyeyes – *choreographer, dancer*

Michael Greyeyes is Plains Cree, from Muskeg Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan. He is an actor, educator, choreographer and director. Michael graduated from The National Ballet School in 1984, before joining The National Ballet of Canada in 1987. He moved to New York City in 1990 after being invited to join the company of renowned choreographer Eliot Feld as a soloist, were soon after he began developing his own dance creations. In addition to concert dance, Michael's choreography has been seen on film and television and in traditional text-based theatre. In 1996, Michael was the subject of a CBC documentary entitled, *He Who Dreams: Michael Greyeyes on the Pow Wow Trail*, which documented his journey home, as he learned how he might use traditional Native dance as a basis for a more personal form of choreography. As an actor, Michael has been featured in films such as *Crazy Horse*, *Dance Me Outside*, *Dreamkeeper*, *Skinwalkers* and most recently, *Passchendaele*, to be released in fall 2008. In 2007, Michael created a duet for 2 Grass dancers, "Untitled # 1535" for the Dusk Dances Festival in Toronto, and in November of that same year, Michael wrote, choreographed and performed in *Triptych*, the sixth episode in "Dancing With Spirit," a dance series created by director, Byron McKim for Bravo! Television.

CanDance Touring Exchange : Indigenous Dancelands

Tournée Montréal – Vancouver – Regina



- **March 5 to 9 2008 – Tangente, Montréal, QC**
- **March 11 and 12 2008 - Vancouver International Dance Festival, Vancouver, BC**
- **March 23 and 24 2008 – New Dance Horizons, Regina, SK**

Principal 2008 partners



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www.candance.ca/www.candanse.ca