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THE BOUNDARY-PUSHING GENIUS RETURNS TO TORONTO

RADICAL VITALITY

Solos and Duets

Choreographed by **Marie Chouinard**

February 5-8 at the Bluma Appel Theatre

“Chouinard has an astonishing imagination... surprising... a grand adventure for the viewer.” – *The Globe and Mail*



Mesmerizing. Shocking. Notorious. Sensual. Original. Legendary choreographer Marie Chouinard, one of Canada’s most creative and provocative dancers and choreographers, delves into her company’s vast repertoire to present RADICAL VITALITY, SOLOS AND DUETS, February 5-8 at Toronto’s Bluma Appel Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts.

A true cultural icon, Chouinard’s daring vision has influenced contemporary dance in Canada and around the world for over forty years. The bold and fearless work that is happening in contemporary dance right now would not be happening without her enormous influence.

FOR CANADIAN STAGE: BRENDAN HEALY, Artistic Director MONICA ESTEVES, Executive Director
ALEXANDRA BAILLIE Board Chair



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An accomplished author, set and lighting designer, photographer and film director, Chouinard has received several awards and distinctions for her contribution to the arts, including the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement, the Bessie, the Chevalier of the Order des Arts et Letters in France des, and the Officer of the Order of Canada. Now forty-two years later, Toronto audiences have the rare opportunity to see 24 dance miniatures from her astounding career.

Brilliant, raw and beautifully unsettling, **RADICAL VITALITY, SOLOS AND DUETS** is an eclectic anthology of three short original works combined with standalone excerpts from historical pieces that Chouinard has reimagined. Interweaving tragedy and comedy, tenderness and cruelty, vulnerability and strength, the graceful and the strange, these works are united by Chouinard's distinctive movement vocabulary. Like in all of her work, these dance miniatures expose the human figure in all its forms.

"We are honoured to have such a longstanding relationship with Marie Chouinard and are thrilled to bring an artist of her caliber to Toronto," says Canadian Stage Artistic Director Brendan Healy. "Her daringly intimate, experimental work has amazed audiences around the world for over four decades and this retrospective is a special opportunity to delve into the mind of this creative genius."

"TO Live is thrilled to continue the partnership with Canadian Stage bringing top international dance artists to Toronto and exploring excellence in arts," said Clyde Wagner, President and CEO, TO Live.

RADICAL VITALITY, SOLO AND DUETS

A Compagnie Marie Chouinard production co-presented by Canadian Stage and TO Live.

Performance schedule:

Wednesday, February 5, 8 PM

Thursday, February 6, 8 PM

Friday, February 7, 7 PM

Saturday, February 8, 8 PM

Bluma Appel Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, 27 Front Street East.

Tickets range from \$49.00 – \$111.00 (additional fees may apply) and are available online at canadianstage.com or at stlc.com, by calling 416-366-7723 or 1-800-708-6754, or in person at the following TO Live box offices: Meridian Arts Centre Box Office (formerly the Toronto Centre for the Arts), 5040 Yonge Street, Tuesday-Saturday 1PM-6PM and the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts Box Office, 27 Front St. E., Monday-Friday, 12PM-6PM

Radical Vitality is a part of **TO Live's Dance Collection**, co-presented with **Canadian Stage**, and generously supported by **BMO Financial Group** and funded in part by the **Government of Canada**.



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ABOUT MARIE CHOUINARD

Marie Chouinard is the founding president of the Prix de la Danse de Montréal and director of dance at the Venice Biennale. After 12 years as a solo performer and choreographer, in 1990, she formed the COMPAGNIE MARIE CHOUINARD, which has since enjoyed a solid reputation all over the world. An author, artist, stage designer and director, her opus also includes installations, performances, films, photographs, drawings, poems, stories and applications. A true cultural ambassador for Quebec, Marie Chouinard is the recipient of several awards and distinctions highlighting her contribution to the world of the arts, including the Bessie Award (New York, 2000), the Grand Prix du Conseil des arts de Montréal (2006), the title of Officer of the Order of Canada (2007), the title of Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France, 2009), the Denise Pelletier Award (Quebec, 2010), the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec Award for best choreography for *THE GOLDEN MEAN (LIVE)* (2012), the Samuel de Champlain Award (France, 2014), the title of Companion of the Ordre national des arts et des lettres du Québec (2015), the title of Chevalier of the Ordre national du Québec (2015), the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement (Canada, 2016), the Positano "Choreographer of the Year" Award (Italy, 2016) and the Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts (Canada, 2016).

ABOUT CANADIAN STAGE

Canadian Stage's mission is to be the leading contemporary performing arts organization in the country. A collision of disciplines and cultures, Canadian Stage reflects the dynamism and complexity of Canada and is a vital artistic force locally, nationally, and internationally. In its over thirty-year history, Canadian Stage has employed thousands of artists and developed and produced hundreds of new productions. Many of the plays developed by Canadian Stage have been awarded and nominated for Canada's most prestigious literary and performing arts honours, including Governor General's, Chalmers and Dora Mavor Moore Awards. Throughout the theatre season, nearly 100,000 patrons attend performances and workshops in our three Toronto venues. Throughout our history, Canadian Stage has provided outstanding education and outreach programs cultivating a diverse audience demographic.

ABOUT TO LIVE

TO Live is one of Canada's largest multi-arts organizations, operating three iconic venues: Meridian Hall (formerly the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts), the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts and Meridian Arts Centre (formerly the Toronto Centre for the Arts). In addition, TO Live presents a full range of performing arts, theatrical and concert events at these venues in both downtown and uptown Toronto. With these two hubs of creativity and content creation, TO Live has a unique place and perspective to activate creative spaces by inspiring local and international artists, connect audiences and to be the nexus for new ideas, elevate artistic potential, and be the catalyst for creative expression that is reflective of Toronto's diversity.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Cathy Paine, Associate Director of Communications

416-367-8243 ext. 250

cpaine@canadianstage.com

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