HOUSE PROGRAMME

X(DIX)

Created by
Guillaume Côté

Côté Danse

CROW'S

JUNE 14 TO 18, 2023

Crow's Theatre presents Côté Danse

X (DIX)

Choreography by Guillaume Côté
June 14 to 18, 2023
Opening Night: Wednesday, June 14, 2023,
at 7:30 pm
GULOIEN THEATRE

THE COMPANY

Guillaume Côté	Choreographer
Natasha Poon Woo	Dancer
Martha Hart	Dancer
Kelly Shaw	Dancer
William Sadler	Dancer
Evan Webb	Dancer
Son Lux	Music
Yael Stone	Costume Design
Simon Rossiter	Lighting Design
Jean-Hugues Rochette	Technical Director / Stage Manager
Etienne Lavigne	Producer
Anisa Tejpar	Creative Assistant + Rehearsal Director

Music licensed courtesy of Domino Publishing Company Limited

Presented with support from The Sleight Family Creative Residency.

The running time of X (DIX) is 60 minutes no intermission.

WELCOME TO CROW'S THEATRE

Welcome to Stratford Crowfoot and the Crow's Theatre debut of Côté Danse.

In 2017, I was in Stuttgart, Germany attending the COLOURS International Dance Festival where I had the opportunity to meet Guillaume Côté and his company for the first time in a program called Meet the Talent. At that meeting, I came to realize Guillaume was one of those rare artists obsessed both in ballet and contemporary dance and his interest in exploring and marrying interdisciplinarity in his art practice. Since then, we have continued our artistic conversations and I have watched his accomplishments expand beyond the National Ballet of Canada through his company Côté Danse with his business partner Etienne Lavigne.

Chris Abraham and I have long wished to bring Côté Danse to Crow's Theatre. We know that our audience is always up for a surprise, and an extraordinary night of performance, regardless of the discipline! Guillaume's bold and bracing work will offer both! We couldn't be more excited to close our 2022/2023 season with Côté Danse's **X (DIX)**.

We also invited the company to conduct a one-week creative residency, with multiple rehearsals and performances, to begin the process of developing new work. Loosely modelled on the Meet the Talent program in Stuttgart, this new program is called Flight.

Flight is a developmental residency with investigation and exploration at its heart, taking place at Streetcar Crowsnest June 20-25. Choreographers **Côté, Kid Koala, Evan Ellers,** and **Hanna Kiel**, will have the opportunity to work and collaborate with Côté Dance artists **Martha Hart, William Sadler, Kelly Shaw, Evan Webb, Natasha Poon Woo** as well as dancers **Miyeko Ferguson, Jessica Germans,** and **Kevin Lee**. Throughout the week, members of the public and dance community are invited to attend inspiring dance classes with the artists in residence, and on June 25 at 7:30 pm, the artists will share the fruits of their labours, on Sunday, June 25 at 5pm in the Guloien Theatre. We hope after seeing X (DIX) you will book a return Flight!

We hope you enjoy our first offering in what has been an incredible season at Crow's Theatre. Chris and I want to thank you for your continued support and engagement, and for inspiring us to be creative. We look forward to seeing you at The Next Stage and beyond!

SHERIDE JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CHRIS ABRAHAM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
CROW'S

ABOUT CÔTÉ DANSE

Côté Danse's mission is to create and present original dance works and experiences in collaboration with various and diverse designers, artists, and partners with the goal of providing performance excellence.

We continue to offer accessible and scalable productions for a multitude of audiences and venues within Canada and abroad, fostering a new generation of dance and theatre goers.

Informed by his classical ballet vocabulary, Guillaume Côté's choreography collects souls with independent geometries and fervent human connections. Contemporary lines and forms with a sleek edge and physical abilities are the work's hallmark of quality.

X (Dix) connects to the myth of Odysseus, about journeying far but always returning to his home. The piece explores the notion of the idea of "inner compass" and the idea that "home" may be a state of mind.

Symbol of completeness, finality and perfection, the number ten (dix) celebrates and sums up the cycle of life and the many possible transformations that this entails. *X (Dix)* was conceived during the pandemic – a transformative time when travellers were unexpectedly home, and when the very concept of what we call home gained new importance.

Five performers share a minimalist stage setting amplified by the surging and sculptural sound of American experimental band Son Lux.

X (Dix) is a co-production with Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur and premiered on August 6, 2021.

X (Dix) is made possible by the generous support of The Emmanuelle Gattuso Foundation.

STAFF

Guillaume Côté	Artistic Director
Etienne Lavigne	Executive Director
Anisa Tejpar	Associate Producer

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Visit https://cotedanse.com/ to learn more about the company.

COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

GUILLAUME CÔTÉ
CHOREOGRAPHER

Guillaume Côté is a native of Lac-Saint-Jean, Québec. He studied at Canada's National Ballet School and joined the company in 1998. In 2000, he was promoted to the corps de ballet, and was promoted to Principal Dancer in 2004. During his career, Mr. Côté has danced most of the major classical and contemporary ballet roles in the company and has been the leading male figure of the company. He has had several lead roles created on him including the title role of Romeo in Alexei Ratmansky's new Romeo and Juliet, Prince Charming in James Kudelka's Cinderella, and the role of Jeeves in John Neumeier's The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat. Guillaume Côté's repertoire has also worked closely with such dance icons as Roland Petit, John Neumeier, William Forsythe, Christopher Wheeldon and Crystal Pite. As a guest artist, Mr. Côté has danced with the Royal Ballet, the Bolshoi Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Hungarian National Ballet, the Mariinsky Theater of St-Petersburg, Teatro Colón de Buenos Aires, Berlin's Staatsoper, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Teatro Real de Madrid, Royal Ballet of Flanders, Hong Kong Opera and the African Ballet Theater. Mr. Côté has also performed in numerous international galas.

In 2012, he launched with fellow dancer Etienne Lavigne Animation Productions, an company dedicated to produce high quality independent dance works and events on stage and on film. In 2013, in addition to his position as dancer with the National Ballet of Canada, Mr. Côté founded Côté Danse in the Toronto area. The mission of Côté Danse is to bring artistic excellence to the company's repertoire. In 2012, his work *Entwil* won the Audience Choice award for best ballet for the role of Romeo in Alexei Ratmansky's new Romeo and The Erik Bruhn Prize. That same year, his work for PocketDance, *Fractals: portrait of Gaussian Curvature*, received the Dance Manor Best Modern Outstanding Choreography. In 2013, his work *Being and Nothingness* entered the National Ballet of Canada's repertoire and after its initial run, the company invited him back to create a new work on the company. Mr. Côté's most recent tour ending in Russia. Mr. Côté's first full-length ballet, *le Petit Prince*, was premiered during the National Ballet's 2014 season in front of sold-out houses. In 2017, Mr. Côté was chosen to participate in the National Ballet of Canada's Choreographic Commission, which combines the talents of three choreographers with those of three Canadian composers. His work *Les Grands Hommes*, to Philippe Leclerc, performed by the National Arts Centre Orchestra, was thus presented on one of the country's most prestigious stages. In 2018, Mr. Côté created his work *Ode* for the company's Principal Character Artist Hannah Fischer, inspired by the life and work of Frederick Thomas McLaren. *Frame by Frame* was presented at the Four Seasons Centre in Toronto. Created in 2019, his independent multimedia work *Copies* toured nationally for 20 performances.

In 2016, Mr. Côté was named the Artistic Director of the National Ballet's Choreographic Institute, a position he held until the fall of 2019. In 2017, Mr. Guillaume Côté founded his own company, Côté Danse, focused on the multidisciplinary creation of innovative works with the mission of making dance more well-rounded differently. In the summer of 2021, he created *X (Dix)* presented at the Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur and then at the Fall for Dance North in Ottawa. In 2021, he created Duos with Thomas Payette, an immersive multidisciplinary work that was presented 83 times in Quebec and Ontario. In 2022, Côté Danse toured Duos in Quebec and Ontario, numerous awards and nominations, including the prestigious Prix Danse Montréal, nominations du Québec for his work in the arts in 2011. In 2021, he was named Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Québec, the highest distinction awarded by the Quebec government.

NATASHA POON WOO
DANCER

Natasha Poon Woo began training and performing with Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre (CCDT) in her hometown of Toronto. She then studied at the Conservatoire de SUNY Purchase, performing the works of Pam Tanowitz, Tanya Tharp, Merce Cunningham, and Paul Taylor. She holds a BFA with Honours in Contemporary Dance Performance/ Achievement. Natasha is a frequent performer with Rock Bottom Movement and Côté Danse, and has worked with Corey Jamison Dance, Kevin Wynn Collection, BoucharDance, The Dietrich Group, Roderick George, Benjamin Kamino, Jennifer Lauren, Lucas Jade Zumann, and Hé & Run Dance Productions, among others. She is a Dora Award-winning performer with Rock Bottom for its acclaimed production, Hockey Night.

Natasha was the Associate Artistic Director of CCDT from 2019-2022 and the company's Rehearsal Director from 2012-2022. She has also directed rehearsals for artists including Hanna Kiel, Roderick George and Rodney Gordon. Natasha is passionate and sought after dance educator specializing in Limon-based modern technique and is a certified instructor of C.I. Training™ (conditioning with images), trained and mentored by Donna Kraviec.

MARTHA HART
DANCER

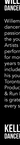
Martha Hart is a freelance dance artist, choreographer and educator based in Toronto. She is a graduate of the Ballet Jorgen Canada, and has performed with the Maurice Ouellet Dance, l'Ecole supérieure de ballet du Québec, and Arts Umbrella Dance in Vancouver. After an engagement with the Dresden Semperoper Ballet in Germany, she returned to Canada and has since worked with esteemed companies and artists such as Côté Danse (Guillaume Côté), Ideal, Nicole Von Aro, Human Body Expression Theatre, Tiny Feet Dance Project (Julie Kaufman), Ace Dance & Theatre Company, TIE (Tarragon Theatre Extravaganza), Bluebird Bluebird Stories, Project20 (Donald Sales) in Montreal, Vancouver, and Toronto. From 2015-2019, she toured Mexico, Spain, and Italy as a member of the Metamorphosis Dance Collective directed by Ivane Arsa and Igor Bacovich and has since organized and produced Metamorphosis Dance Workshops in Toronto.

In 2020, she founded the company HART Movement to act as a collaborative platform for her choreographic endeavours. Her work has been featured at Stack Market North in Etobicoke, New Blood Dance Festival, in the short film Glass (Canadian Film Centre), and most recently she choreographed a music video for Canadian singer Jessie Reyez. She continues to teach and coach dancers of all ages across the GTA and is passionate about sharing dance as a visceral experience to a wide variety of audiences.

WILLEM SADLER
DANCER

William Sadler began his training as a streetsyles dancer based in Toronto, Ontario. His exuberant passion led him to begin his professional career at the young age of 17, joining and dancing with the Ballet Jorgen Canada. Since then, he has danced and performed his drive-like dance style from his love for movement and the art of dance. Following many years training solely in street styles, William began his training in this artform to include ballet, contemporary, ballroom, modern, jazz, Afro, etc. Throughout his young career he has performed for institutions and companies like the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Shoppers Drug Mart, Roots Canada, Minwah Chin Dance, Ballet Jorgen Canada, Ballet Ontario, Ballet Kelly, Ballet Ballet, Hé & Run Dance Productions, Dusk Dances and Dance Collection Danse. William is grateful to have the opportunity to work with Côté Danse and hopes with every show he can bring joy and enlightenment into every viewer's day.

KELLY SHAW
DANCER



Kelly Shaw is a BFA honours graduate from Toronto Metropolitan University's Performance Dance program, and also part of the University's 2018 Jack McMillan award. She is a Toronto-trained contemporary dancer who works with artistically collaborators and performs with Dance Collective Danse, Kevin Wynn Collection, Provenance Projects, PocketDance, and Aqua Pina Dance Projects. She has previously performed with Citadel + Compagnie (Tim Mielke's choreography), Echo Chamber (Tiziana De Gerace Oriente Weekend), Toronto Dance Theatre, Hé and Run Dance Productions, and was a 2010 and 2018 Dora Mavor Moore performer.

Additionally, Kelly has toured internationally to perform as a part of New Dance Horizons's Emerged Series, ACD Dance Awards in New York City, as well as Festival International de Danse contemporaine and Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur in Quebec. In fall 2022, she was rehearsal assistant in Germany for Ballet Hagen and is a sought after dance educator and choreographer across North America. Kelly also teaches Pilates and barre instructor, and now recently certified as a holistic life coach, offering work in the realm of somatic healing and mindfulness.

EVAN WEBB
DANCER

Evan Webb (they/them) hails from Calgary, Alberta and is currently based in Toronto, Ontario. They graduated from the Ballet Jorgen Canada Dance program in the Performance Dance program. At TMU Evan had the opportunity to work with William Forsythe, Jennifer Fernandez, Peggy Baker, Jera Wolfe, and Dylan Crossman in the repertoire of Merce Cunningham and Paul Taylor. Evan has worked with Jera Wolfe, Louis Laberge Côté, Guillaume Côté, and Nicole Von Aro. Evan is a dance artist who is interested in exploring the ways in which dance can be used as a means to activate a conversation around intersectionality in all aspects of movement expression. With a love for anthropology and philosophy, Evan creates focused work for the stage which engage interact with each other, others allowing experiences from their own life to inform their creative inspiration. Evan is a company member of PocketDance, a member of the Ballet Jorgen Canada Company, where they have worked with Nashi Wang, Leslie Telford, and Jennifer Fernandez. Including Sonya Kelly's production of Dancing Lessons, Evan has performed in Canada, Europe, and Asia. Evan is currently rehearsing for a lead role in an original play written by Sedia Epstein Fine. Experiences with Corey Jamison's dance company have taught them how a dance community has given them a unique perspective and influenced their artistic values. They continue to research gender, sexuality, and politics in their own art practice.

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SON LUX
MUSIC

From the start, Son Lux has operated as something more than a single artist. The Academy Award® and BAFTA-nominated band strives to question deeply held assumptions about how music is made and reconstruct it from a molecular level. What began as a solo project for founder Rafer Lott expanded in 2014, thanks to a kinship with Ben Lanz and Ryan Olcott, into a trio. The trio strengthened their bonds with a series of projects including composing, releasing, and touring six recordings, including *Brighter Wounds* (2018) and triple album *Tomorrows* (2021). The result is a carefully cultivated musical language rooted in curiosity and balancing opposites that largely eschews genre and structural conventions. In fact, the band remains actively indebted to contemporary artists in vast, hip-hop, and experimental improvisation who themselves carved new paths forward. Distilling these varied influences, Son Lux searches for equilibrium of raw emotional intensity and meticulous electronic composition. The band's most recent release, *Lanterns* (2019), was a 2019 *Everything Everywhere all at Once* (2022) The full score also features new collaborations with Mitski, David Byrne, Randy Newman, Moses Sumney, among others.

YSO SOUTH
COSTUME DESIGNER

Originally from Ventiane (Laos), Yso South has chosen Montreal as their adopted city. Their interpretation for design, theatre, film, visual arts, art direction and all forms of contemporary creation guides their daily and their talents take them in these fields. In addition to their own designs, Yso South has worked for many Canadian and foreign companies, including Cirque du Soleil, Louise Lecavalier, Danse Canada Montreal, Folio Montréal, Cycle Henry Productions, Sailor Productions and the Biennale de Montréal.

SIMON ROSSITER
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Simon Rossiter is a Toronto-based lighting designer who occasionally designs sets. He has created more than 250 original creations, including works for the Alberta Ballet, Canada's Ballet, Compagnie Danse Soleil, Compagnie Marie Chouinard, Company Jackson, Theatre Centre, Théâtre français de Toronto, New Brunswick Theatre, Toronto Dance Theatre, and he is the Design Director of Fall for Dance North. Past collaborations with Côté Dance include Cryptic, and Touch. Simon is the recipient of Dora Mavor Moore Awards and six nominations for Outstanding Lighting Design and was twice shortlisted for the Pauline McGibbon Award. Over the Canada Arts Council, Simon is also a sales agent for Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.

JEAN-HUGUES ROCHETTE
STAGE MANAGER

Jean-Hugues Rochette has spent the last 50 years in theatre and dance. He has been in the profession for 17 years with various companies such as Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, Les Ballets de Montréal, The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Minnesota Dance Theater, and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal. Jean-Hugues has become a company coordinator, client service coordinator and tour manager with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. In 2002 he joined La La Human Steps for 15 years as stage manager, tour director, tour manager, and production coordinator. Jean-Hugues has worked for different companies and dance with a multitude of productions such as Jean-Pierre Perreault, artistic director, executive coordinator for les Sortilages, and stage manager and technical director for organizations such as Danse Danse, les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, les Ballets Montréal, École supérieure de ballet du Québec, Compagnie Marie Chouinard, Danse à la Carte, Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur and Côté Dance.

ETIENNE LAVIGNE
PRODUCER

A native of Montréal, Québec, Etienne Lavigne trained at l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec, San Francisco Ballet School and the National Ballet of Cuba. He joined The National Ballet of Canada in 1990 and danced with the company for 15 years, promoted to First Soloist in 2001 and principal Character Artist in 2015. He danced a number of lead roles and created over 1500 performances in front of three million people, he retired from his full-time position at The National Ballet of Canada in 2017. He was then named Guest Principal Character Artist, and it is in this capacity that he occasionally returns to the stage with the company.

During his dance career, Mr. Lavigne studied business management at Concordia University, completed a University Research and took an active role in the administrative side of dance. Since 2009, he has managed many of the leading dance companies and in 2013 he joined the team at Etienne Côté, Animation Productions with the mandate of producing dance on stage and on film. They also created together Côté Dance where Mr. Lavigne has produced over a dozen different works on stage and on film in many Canadian cities.

In 2016, he was named Executive Director of the Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur, the largest summer dance festival in Canada. Since the beginning of his tenure, the festival has experienced a remarkable revival, doubling its ticket sales and its visibility. In 2020 FASS received the Prix Opus for Specialized Festival of the year in Quebec and in 2022, it received the Prix Ambassadeur des Laurentides at the Grands Prix de la Culture.

In 2009, Mr. Lavigne was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for his exceptional leadership, honesty and integrity in his work. Mr. Lavigne is a Board member of REIMAGINE, representing artistic Festivals in Quebec as well as a Board member of the Association de l'Entre Scène Supérieure de ballet du Québec.

ANISA TEJPAR
CREATIVE ASSISTANT + REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

Dora Mavor Moore Award winner, Anisa Tejpar is originally from Toronto, and is a graduate of Canada's National Ballet School. She has danced with Guillaume Côté, Aszkar Jabbah, Miscewski, John Neumeier, Ginette Laurin, Mauro Bazzoli, Peggy Baker, Marie-Chantale Vaillancourt, Robert Glumbek, Roberta Campanella, D.A. Hoskins, Jeremy Hutton, Ballet Jorgen, Ballet Ontario, and William Yong and in companies such as Tapestry Opera, Data Dom, ProArtsDance, Against the Grain Theatre, and Human Body Expression.

Tejpar is Co-Artistic Director of the dance entertainment firm Lil & Sup Dance Productions. Sup, for which she has created works for artists and brands all over Canada including NIKE, The Rolling Stones, PUMA, TIFF, Telus, Lupe Fiasco, Evangelyne, Ne-Yo, M.A.C. Cosmetics, and Gaga Lovers, amongst many others. Lil & Sup Dance Productions has also produced and choreographed a dance experience. She is also the pilot choreographer of Steven Spielberg's Minority Report *Experience Choreographer the video game For Cry: Primal* and performed in the game as well.

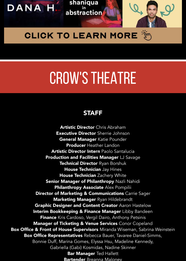
Tejpar is Associate Producer with Côté Dance and serves as Creative Assistant in Guillaume Côté's new creations and remounts. Tejpar currently teaches Content + Boundaries for Dancers at Toronto Metropolitan University in the Dance Department and is a Dance Teacher at Ballet Jorgen, a professional dance collective The Platform with Kate Ryan and Benjamin Landsberg.

Tejpar is an Intimacy Coordinator and Director, and her focus is dance, and dancers having worked with The National Ballet of Canada, Ballet BC, and on several Film and episodic television.

Tejpar is a current member of the Board of Directors of Canada's National Ballet School, and on the Performer Program Advisory Committee for St. Lawrence College. She has also worked extensively with Dancing with Parkinson and served as a choreographer and dancer with the Intergenerational Dance Project connecting youth and seniors through dance.

NEXT UP
AT CROW´S

A Creative Residency with Côté Dance June 20-25, 2023



Click HERE to learn about the daily open dance classes and free public presentation on June 25 @ 3pm in the Guloien Theatre.

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