

# COMPAGNIE VIRGINIE BRUNELLE

## FABLES

**CHOREOGRAPHER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** Virginie Brunelle

**PERFORMERS** Sophie Breton, Alexandre Carlos, Sabrina Dupuis, Chi Long, Milan Panet-Gigon, Marie Eve Quilicot, Marine Rixhon, Peter Trosztmer, Lucie Vigneault, Evelyann Yan

**PIANIST** Laurier Rajotte

**REHEARSAL DIRECTOR** Claudine Hébert

**PIANO AND SOUNDTRACK COMPOSITION** Laurier Rajotte

**SOUNDTRACK & SOUND ENVIRONMENT COMPOSITION** Philippe Brault

**LIGHTING DIRECTOR** Matthew F. Lewandowski II

**SOUND DESIGN AT CREATION** Joël Lavoie

**COSTUME DESIGN** Elen Ewing

**SCENOGRAPHY DESIGN** Marilène Bastien

**LIGHTING DESIGN** Martin Labrecque

**DRAMATURGY** Nicolas Berzi

**PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT** Charlotte Ménard

**TECHNICAL DIRECTION** Samuel Thériault

**TECHNICAL DIRECTION AT CREATION** François Marceau

**ADMINISTRATION** Lorganisme

**INTERNATIONAL TOURING** CAPAS · Label de danse

**CO-PRODUCERS** LAC – Lugano Arte e Cultura, Danse Danse, National Arts Centre of Canada (Ottawa), Harbourfront Centre, Festival des arts de Saint-Sauveur

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Zellerbach Theatre

Friday, February 20 @ 7:30 PM

Saturday, February 21 @ 2 PM

There will be no intermission.

### INSIGHTS

Stay after the Friday evening performance for a conversation with the artists, moderated by Christopher A. Gruits, our Executive & Artistic Director, with translation by Sandrine Rajaonarivony, doctoral student in French and Francophone Studies at Penn.

The 25/26 season dance series is co-sponsored by Arthur Kaplan, C'67 and Duane Perry alongside Lynn Jerath, W'95 and Kunal Jerath.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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**Compagnie Virginie Brunelle** is a choreographic creation company founded in 2009 that produces and presents original works under the artistic and general direction of the eponymous choreographer. Holding a bachelor's degree in dance from UQÀM in 2008, Brunelle quickly set herself apart in the Montreal dance scene with her distinctive style. The company contributes to the advancement of dance and the public's appreciation of the arts through more than ten works, which have been presented in numerous theatres in Montreal as well as throughout Quebec, Canada, and internationally.

### **Virginie Brunelle** (Choreographer and Artistic Director)

Freshly graduated in 2008, Brunelle made a striking debut with *Les cuisses à l'écart du cœur*, garnering awards even with her first work. However, it was especially with *Foutrement* and *Complexe des genres* that she asserted her signature: a visceral dance, at once raw and sensitive, captivating audiences in both Canada and Europe. These two flagship pieces, now emblematic of her artistic universe, launched a series of tours that established her international reputation.

Riding this success, Brunelle continued to explore human relationships through the lens of fragility and intensity with *PLOMB* (2014) and *To the pain that lingers* (2016). In 2018, within the framework of Gauthier Dance Theaterhaus Stuttgart, Éric Gauthier invited her to create a piece titled *Beating*. This collaboration further cemented that her work was increasingly rooted in the European landscape. A year later, she created *Les corps avalés*, a powerful stage fresco featuring the Quatuor Molinari. The work's premiere at Danse Danse sparked widespread enthusiasm.

In 2022, always eager to explore new forms, Brunelle embarked on a large-scale project with *Fables*, a work for ten performers and a pianist, which propelled her to the prestigious Venice Biennale in 2025.

Her interest in cinematic imagery also led her to translate her skills to film in directing *Reminiscences*, a dance short presented at the Festival Regard in 2021 and awarded at multiple international festivals thereafter. Simultaneously, her desire to expand modes of expression drew her to theatre. Co-directed with Jean-Simon Traversy, their staging of *Royal at Duceppe* won the prize for best direction from the Quebec Association of Theatre Critics.

In January 2025, she returned to Stuttgart to create *High Moon* with the Juniors of Gauthier Dance, continuing a fruitful dialogue between Montreal and Europe. Most recently, she premiered *On the verge of collapse*, an epic dance work for five performers, in Quebec in the fall of 2025. The piece will have its Montreal premiere in April at Danse Danse, further expanding her evolving choreographic universe.