

From migration to diversity: Rhodnie Désir creates *BOW'T*, a pivotal work of universal scope linked to 2 civic projects

Montreal, February 4, 2015 — What would society be without migration? Do you need to be a first- or second-generation immigrant to be interested in, and feel invested in, cultural diversity? In order to reflect collectively on this theme, beginning on March 4, the artist **Rhodnie Désir** invites the public to immerse themselves in migration through her dance piece entitled ***BOW'T***. Arising from a questioning of the notion of cultural and artistic diversity, she offers a work that is both politically engaged and poetic, and which calls out to the spectator by building a bridge to the past. Following an enthusiastic reception by the public, Rhodnie Désir continues the ***BOW'T*** journey by initiating two projects aimed at involving the larger public: *Pas à pas* (Step by Step), in which teenagers explore the notion of identity through intergenerational photojournalism; and ***BOW'T/Letters***, a lab concentrating on the migration theme through various forms of writing.

***BOW'T*: migration is all about movement!**

Named Revelation of 2014 in the renowned magazine ***The Dance Current*** (Philip Szporer, journalist), ***BOW'T*** is a heartfelt homage to those who left their homeland without ever really putting it behind them. The word ***BOW'T*** comes from the English *bow*, a word that unites the notions of a physical movement, a demonstration of thanks, and the front of a boat (*bow't*). The dancer-choreographer—whose artistic development has been closely focused on forging links between the past and the present—offers us **a work of art in dance, where singing in made-up languages, set against Haitian rhythms interpreted live by musician and percussionist Ronald Nazaire, establishes a narrative framework that defies classification**. The powerful soundscape and uncluttered stage design, where the spectator seems to float between the wooden rows of seat and the paper boats onstage, inspire reflection. Acting as a mouthpiece for those without words, the originality of the work lies in its narrative framework and its music, created and expressed by the choreographer, as well as physical movements inspired by the cultures of Haiti and of central and west Africa.

See the *BOW'T* trailer: <https://vimeo.com/rhodnie/demo>

***Pas à pas*: a youth/intergenerational project to keep an eye on!**

Always looking to nurture her own reflection while at the same time bringing others together, Rhodnie Désir created ***Pas à pas (Step by Step)***, **a cultural involvement project uniting the artistic, historic, intergenerational and contemporary**. Over three months, two classes made up of teenagers undertake a photojournalistic work about their parents, seeking to learn more about their history and identity. The results will be shared on the Web and will serve as a research tool in the **creation of a dance work, a video and a round table**. The project will culminate on March 4, when ***BOW'T*** makes its way to the arrondissement of Saint-Laurent. This step is made possible by the support of the arrondissement, in close collaboration with the Émile-Legault secondary school in the **Marguerite-Bourgeoy school board**.

***BOW'T/ Letters*: a vibrant homage to be explored**

At the same time, ***BOW'T/Letters*** takes off. This project aims to be a dynamic, accurate and up-to-date presentation of the world's cultural diversity. It will gather and archive the reminiscences and reflections of migrants in order to honour their immense courage. "What

ties do you have to migration? Before, during and after the migratory experience, what sticks with you?” are some questions that Rhodnie Désir wishes to ask. All you need to do is send your thoughts (in words, photos, sound recording or video) to bowtletters@rhodniedesir.com. The submissions will be published one week after they are received.

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About Rhodnie Désir

A graduate in classical dance from Pierre-Laporte school, from the artistic and professional training program in African dance (Nyata Nyata dance company) and bachelor in marketing and communication, this independent artist has attended a variety of master classes in Canada and in the United States. She has kept company with such masters and pioneers as Zab Maboungou, Brydon Page, Oumar N'Diaye, Salia Sanou ..., who have shaped her art and guided her towards her current specialization: contemporary African dance. She has further broadened her skills through the creations of her original works: *Vi* (2009), *É'TA* (2011), *Vi[REC]* (2012), *BOW'T* and *AYEwa* (2013). With *BOW'T*, Rhodnie has been able to explore various presentation options as well as cultural exchanges in Canada and in Burkina Faso.

For more information : rhodniedesir.com

TOUR DATES

2015

March 4th	Salle Émile-Legault - Arrondissement de St-Laurent (Qc)
March 12th	Auditorium Le Prévost, , Maison de la culture Villeray-Saint-Michel Parc-extension
March 13th	Théâtre du Grand Sault, Arrondissement de LaSalle
March 18th	Maison de la culture Ahunstic-Cartierville (Qc)*

* Presented by the Touring Program of the Conseil des arts de Montréal.

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