

## PRESENTING **BOW'T**, ON TOUR

Between past and present, from dance to poetry

**Montreal, October 28, 2014** - **BOW'T**, by choreographer and performer **Rhodnie Désir**, will be included in the Conseil des arts de Montréal Touring Program (CAM), as well as in the *2014 Power of the Arts National Forum*, by invitation of the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean and Jean-Daniel Lafond. Created in 2013 and enthusiastically received by audiences, the **solo afro-contemporary work will visit nearly 10 locations**. In her 4<sup>th</sup> work, the artist explores the **psychology of migrants** through the relationships between body and voice, movement and space, past and present. It is an arousing original work, poetic and precise.

### **Migration, Chosen or Forced**

A vibrant homage to those who have left their lands without ever letting it go, and who still hold the dream of returning, **BOW'T** is an amalgamation of contemporary African dance, song, and poetry. Nested within a powerful auditory environment, at the heart of a refined mise-en-scene, the voice and movements of the choreographer, along **with the Caribbean rhythms of musician Ronald Nazaire**, form the narrative of an inspiration: to choose, to leave – arriving, finding yourself, choosing... **This timely and universal work paints the very real parallels, hard but luminous, between the voluntary and the involuntary** – the immigrant and the slave.

### **A Bridge**

**BOW'T**, principally derived from the word “bow”, to bend the head or body, also signifies the forefront of a ship or vessel. From these notions, the choreographer and performer has elaborated **an imaginary language from which are born gestures inspired by the traditions of Haiti, Central Africa, and the West**. Great-granddaughter of a merchant seaman, Rhodnie honours these entrepreneurial roots and finds herself, in her turn, a bridge between multiple cultures and identities. In her words: “I consider movement in a way to be larger than dance: movement, arousal, balance, variation, change. The earth is continuously in movement, how can we for a moment consider ourselves to be fixed?”

### **A Dedicated Team**

Created in 2013 under a residency program at *GESU-Centre de créativité*, and sponsored by that organisation for the CAM tour, **BOW'T** has been part of multiple presentations, often accompanied by preparatory workshops and public discussions with its creator. Noteworthy as well as the single dance presentation among the multidisciplinary works recommended by the *Réseau Accès Culture* and *Vue sur la relève* for pre-selection for **Loto-Québec's Entrées en scène 2015-2016**. As choreographer, stage designer, lyricist, composer and performer, Rhodnie Désir has surrounded herself with great talents, such as: Ronald Nazaire (Musician and Percussionist), Jonathan Barro (Lighting and Technical Director), Isabelle Boudreau (Costume Designer), Karla Étienne (Rehearsal Director), and Zab Maboungou (Mentor).

Trailer available at: <https://vimeo.com/rhodnie/demo>

## About Rhodnie Désir

A graduate in classical dance from Pierre-Laporte secondary school, this independent artist has attended a variety of training courses in Canada and in the United States. She has kept company with such masters and pioneers as Zab Maboungou, Odette Lalonde, Brydon Page and Oumar N'Diaye, who have shaped her art and guided her towards her current specialization: contemporary African dance. She has further broadened her skills through the *Programme d'entraînement et de formation artistique et professionnelle en danse africaine* of the Compagnie Danse Nyata Nyata, as well as 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](http://rhodniedesir.com)

### TOUR DATES

#### 2014

November 7th	Salle de l'ANM, Sainte-Adèle (Qc) – school matinée
November 7th	Carlton University / Forum national Le Pouvoir des arts (On)
November 12th	Maison de la culture du Plateau-Mont-Royal (Qc)*
November 13h	Salle Désilets - Cégep Marie-Victorin, Rivières-des-prairies (Qc)*

#### 2015

March 4th	Salle Émile-Legault - Cégep de St-Laurent (Qc)*
March 12th	Auditorium Le Prévost, Villeray (Qc)*
March 13th	Centre culturel Henri-Lemieux-Théâtre du Grand Sault (Qc)*
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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