

L'ÉCOLE  
SUPÉRIEURE DE  
**BALLET**  
DU QUÉBEC

*Nearly 60 years after its founding by Ludmilla Chiriaeff*

VIBRANT AND CONTEMPORARY,  
THE ÉCOLE SUPÉRIEURE DE BALLET  
DU QUÉBEC CONTINUES TO  
DISTINGUISH ITSELF



# THE ÉCOLE SUPÉRIEURE TODAY

- One of Quebec's most important artistic institutions, preparing to mark its 60th anniversary in 2026.
- The only program in North America offering highly specialized professional training in classical dance in French.
- Three professional programs:
  - Performance
  - Dance instruction (ACS)
  - Musical accompaniment
- One of the world's largest specialized collections of dance-related materials, held at the Bibliothèque de la danse Vincent-Warren.
- Nearly a third of the dancers hired by Les Grands Ballets are our graduates (13 of 46 dancers).
- Numerous dancers are performers with the world's most prominent companies.
- Led by artistic director Anik Bissonnette, a Quebec icon and one of Canada's three most important ballerinas.
- World-class instructors with roots in the world's great dance companies (Muriel Valtat, José Manuel Carreño, Gaby Baars, Andrea Boardman, etc.).
- One of the largest employers in the dance sector after Les Grands Ballets, with 40 permanent employees (including 14 professors and 6 accompaniment pianists) and 50 temporary employees.
- Professors and accompaniment pianists from Quebec and around the world: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, United States, France, Japan, Netherlands, Russia, Türkiye, Ukraine...
- Nearly 720 dance enthusiasts in its recreational programs.



## **MISSION**

The mission of the École supérieure is to train dancers and artists to the highest standards used by professional dance institutions and, in the process, to encourage the recognition, success and advancement of dance.

## **HISTORY**

The École supérieure de ballet du Québec has its origins in the early 1950s, when Madame Chiriaeff led her first dance classes at L'École Chiriaeff. In 1958, that school became the Académie des Grands Ballets Canadiens, training dancers for the new Quebec ballet company of that name. On the request of the provincial cultural affairs ministry, which wanted Quebec to have a professional dance academy, Madame Chiriaeff reorganized her educational activities and founded the École Supérieure des Grands Ballets Canadiens in 1966. In 1980, the school obtained a charter independent of the dance company and became the École supérieure de danse du Québec. In 2011, the school was finally renamed the École supérieure de ballet du Québec (commonly known as the École supérieure).

## **PARTNERS**

The École supérieure carries out its mission thanks to the financial support of the provincial ministry of culture and communications and the federal department of Canadian Heritage. It is a member of the Association des écoles supérieures d'art du Québec (ADÉSAQ), and recognizes the contributions of its pedagogical partners: Cégep du Vieux Montréal and Pensionnat du Saint-Nom-de-Marie.

*The École supérieure is affiliated with the Grands Ballets Canadiens.*



# VIDEOS



The energy of passion: Discover the young dancers of ESBQ



Take the leap with the École supérieure de ballet du Québec! (2022)



## OUR STUDENTS

Since the school's founding, the École supérieure has trained hundreds of students.

In 2022-23, there were 171 students in the professional division, including:

- 10 graduating students
- 12 international students
- 12 students from Canada outside Quebec
- 35 students from Quebec outside Montreal

## A SPRINGBOARD TO THE GREAT COMPANIES OF THE WORLD

Dancers trained by the École supérieure are acclaimed on local, Canadian and international stages. Here are a few examples.

- Shortly after graduating in June 2023, Tuesday Rain Leduc and Anaïs Roy were hired by **Les Grands Ballets Canadiens** as apprentice dancers.
- Several of our alumni were promoted by **Les Grands Ballets** in the fall of 2022: Maude Sabourin was named Principal Dancer; Maude Fleury, François Gagné, Carrigan MacDonald and Alexandra Eccles became official members of the ballet corps on completing their apprenticeships; and Christian Scifo and Rose Trahan became apprentices.
- Élodie Scholtes-Labrecque and Aicha Ben Chaâboune dance with **Cas Public**. Aicha received the **Prix Eva Von Gencsy** from Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal in 2023.
- Zao Dinel and Emma-Lynn Mackay-Ronacher are apprentices with **RUBBERBAND**.
- Adrian Batt dances with **Compagnie Marie Chouinard**.
- Several of our graduates perform with **Ballet Ouest**.
- Ève-Marie Dalcourt has worked as a coach with Staatsballett Berlin and the **Opéra de Paris**.
- Quentin Nabor dances with the Junior company of **Ballett Zürich** (Switzerland).
- Antoine Charbonneau has danced with **Ballett Hagen** (Germany) since August 2023.
- Cohen Aitchison-Dugas is a member of the company at **Staatsballett Berlin**.
- Pier-Loup Lacour dances with the **Ballet of Difference** (Cologne, Germany).
- Pierre-Émile Lemieux Venne dances with the **Ballet de l'Opéra national du Rhin** (Alsace, France).
- A number of former students and graduates are now in leadership roles with major organizations working to advance dance in Quebec: Marc Lalonde (Grands Ballets), Lisa Davis (École de danse contemporaine de Montréal), Sophie Corriveau (Danse-Cité / RQD co-chair), Alicia Pobega (Danse à la carte), Mickaël Spinnhirny (specialized communication and broadcast agency), Marie-Josée Lecours (Bibliothèque de la danse Vincent-Warren), etc.





## Photo credit

1 - Photographer: Maxime Côté

**Coda, Corps de ballet, annual show of the École supérieure de ballet du Québec (2023)**

Choreography by Anne Dryburgh and Sophie-Estel Fernandez

2 - Photographer: Maxime Côté

**La Bayadère, Corps de ballet, annual show of the École supérieure de ballet du Québec (2023)**

Choreography by Marius Petipa, directed by José Manuel Carreño

3 - Photographer: Michael Slobodian

**Tatiana Lerebours, graduate of the École supérieure and first Haitian dancer employed by Les Grands Ballets**

4 - Photographer: Sasha Onyshchenko

**Shô Araki, class of 2024, École supérieure de ballet du Québec**

5 - Photographer: Carl Lessard

**All ballet classes at the École supérieure de ballet du Québec are accompanied by pianists**

6 - Photographer: Sasha Onyshchenko

**Jasmine, Elias and Alice, Junior students at the École supérieure de ballet du Québec (2023)**

7 - Photographer: Sasha Onyshchenko

**Anaïs Roy and Arnaud Mongeon (2022), students at the École supérieure de ballet du Québec**

**Anaïs is now an apprentice with Les Grands Ballets and Arnaud a graduate of the ESBQ.**

8 - Photographer: Sasha Onyshchenko

**The 12 members of the 2024 graduating class, École supérieure de ballet du Québec**

9 - Photographer: Peter Morneau

**A ballet class at the École supérieure de ballet du Québec**