

L'ÉCOLE
SUPÉRIEURE DE
BALLET
DU QUÉBEC

Press Release

For immediate publication

**L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec mourns the loss of a great master,
Lawrence Rhodes**

Montreal, March 28, 2019 — L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec is deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Lawrence Rhodes, artistic director of the Grands Ballets Canadiens from 1989 to 1999.

“Larry was a great master,” said Anik Bissonnette, artistic director of L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec and former principal dancer with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. “I loved taking his ballet class and receiving his richly detailed instruction. He put the Grands Ballets on the map internationally, and under his leadership it became the first North American company to attract the most iconic choreographers of our time: Mats Eks, Nacho Duato, Jiří Kylián and Ohad Naharin. Larry was an extremely generous man. His door was always open to the artists who worked with him. We are fortunate that he left his mark on Quebec.”

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens hired several graduates of L'École supérieure during Lawrence Rhodes' tenure as artistic director, including Geneviève Guérard, Anne Plamondon, Bernard Martin, Lesley Telford, Isabelle Paquette, Lisa Davies, Louis-Martin Charest, Alisia Pobega, Andrée Parent and Stéphanie Dalphond.

In addition to Ms. Bissonnette, several members of L'École supérieure's team had the privilege of working with Mr. Rhodes at the Grands Ballets Canadiens. Andrea Boardman, now associate director of the senior program in the professional division, was prima ballerina at the time. Professors Benjamin Hatcher, Sarah Gibson and Catherine Lafortune were members of the corps de ballet. Michelle Proulx, a member of the board of directors, was Mr. Rhodes' artistic assistant. Gioconda Barbuto and Andrew Skeels, who frequently choreograph pieces for students at L'École supérieure, also worked with him for many years.

About L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec

L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec has made it its mission to train dancers and creators meeting the highest criteria in the world of professional dance and, in the process, promote the recognition, outreach and development of dance. Founded in 1952 by Ludmilla Chiriaeff and incorporated in 1966 at the request of Québec's Ministère des Affaires culturelles, it is the standard in Québec for teaching and professional training in the field of classical dance.

L'École supérieure carries out its mission thanks to an annual grant from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec and financial support from the Department of Canadian Heritage. A member of the Association des écoles supérieures d'art de Montréal, l'École supérieure also acknowledges the collaboration of its educational partners, the Cégep du Vieux Montréal and the Pensionnat du Saint-Nom-de-Marie.

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