

L'ÉCOLE
SUPÉRIEURE DE
BALLET
DU QUÉBEC

Press Release
For immediate publication

From L'École supérieure to the Opéra de Paris...at 24!

Montréal, July 26, 2021 — At just 24 years of age, Ève-Marie Dalcourt, a graduate of *L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec*, becomes a rehearsal director at the Opéra de Paris. From August 26 to September 28, she will be assisting Alexander Ekman, whose show *Play* will be on the famous company's bill this fall.

This is the young dancer's third collaboration with the choreographer, renowned for his sense of rhythm and off-beat humour, whom she met at the Netherlands Dans Theater 2. After dancing Ève-Marie, he called on her in 2020 for the restaging of *Cacti* with the Royal Swedish Ballet. "I know this work inside and out, having danced it many times throughout the world," explained Ève-Marie. "I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to share my experience and my know-how with other artistes and now, I'm proud that Alexander wants me to be part of his team."

Originally from Longueuil, Ève-Marie was quite young when she started dancing at the Centre de danse Yvon Quintal et Studio de danse Francyne Lavallée, and at the *Académie de danse Martine Laferrière* in Varennes. Her talent led her to *L'École supérieure* from 2011 to 2016. "This is an extremely determined artist who beautifully masters classical technique and knows how to do it all. From *Swan Lake* to the *Bottine Souriante*, during her time with us, she has performed it all with flair. I'm not surprised to see that she is now working with the largest ballet company," stated L'École supérieure's artistic director, Anik Bissonnette.

Ève-Marie took her first steps in Europe four years ago, taking part in the NDT2's Summer Intensive program. Headquartered in The Hague, in the Netherlands, that company offered her a contract and, for three years, she travelled the world. She then launched a freelance career, dancing everywhere in Europe, with Juliano Nunes amongst others, and teaching in Japan. She also co-founded the *TB/H Collective*, which will be performing on stage for the first time this summer in Switzerland. Furthermore, she is currently creating an online platform establishing a network of representatives from all dance companies.

About Anik Bissonnette

As principal dancer of Montréal's Grands Ballets Canadiens for close to 18 years, Anik Bissonnette distinguished herself both at home and abroad, receiving critical acclaim for her classical technique as well as her great musical sensibility. Her career has been marked by significant distinctions, including the titles of Officer of the Order of Canada (1995) and Knight of the National Order of Québec (1996). She was awarded the Denise-Pelletier Prize in 2008, the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2014, L'Ordre de Montréal in 2018, and the Ordre des arts et des Lettres du Québec in 2021. Concurrently, she served as President of the Regroupement québécois de la danse for six years. Since taking the helm of L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec in 2010, Anik Bissonnette has devoted her energies to communicating her knowledge to a new generation of dancers worthy of the finest dance companies in Québec, Canada and the world.

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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 du Québec, 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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For information: Lili Marin, Director — Communications and Public Relations

514 885-6448