



## MEDIA RELEASE

Media Contact: Marnie Wilson at 604.836.2409 [mwilson@theartsbiz.com](mailto:mwilson@theartsbiz.com)

**Event:** DanceHouse presents

**BJM**

**Dates:** February 24 & 25, 2017

**Venue:** Vancouver Playhouse, 600 Hamilton Street, Vancouver

**Curtain:** 8 pm

**Speaking of Dance Pre-show talk:** 7:15 pm, upper lobby with Louis Robitaille (Artistic Director BJM) & Janet Smith (Arts Editor, The Georgia Straight)

**Tickets and Information:** From \$35. 604.801.6225 or [www.dancehouse.ca](http://www.dancehouse.ca)

### Explosive Montreal dance company returns to Vancouver with three pieces

**VANCOUVER, BC / Monday, January 23, 2017** — As part of its 2016/17 season, DanceHouse is pleased to announce the return of the explosive and original **BJM (Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal)** to Vancouver.

This marks the internationally renowned contemporary dance company's first Vancouver appearance in four years. Followers of dance have long appreciated the repertory company's ability to bring the aesthetics of ballet to other styles of dance.

For its return to Vancouver, BJM is presenting three recent pieces. They bear the distinctive BJM signature of pure, festive energy - a celebration of humanity, its beauty and its creative force.

**Rouge (2014)** - Based on traditional Amerindian music, *Rouge* is an ode to resilience and a tribute to indigenous peoples and their musical and cultural legacy. Choreographed for BJM by **Rodrigo Pederneiras**, Artistic Director of Brazil's Grupo Corpo and previously seen on the DanceHouse stage in February 2014, the dance is performed by the BJM ensemble as a single entity, suggesting the idea of escape or flight, a human migration. Gathering momentum as they are carried away by the rhythm of the music, the dancers convey drama and strength, surging toward a point of crisis until the excess of impulse and tension is exorcised.

**Mono Lisa (2015)** - Two dancers execute incredible acrobatics in a factory-like atmosphere filled with sounds and visions of iron and steel in this piece from **Itzik Galili**. Michael A. Kros, of *Ballettanz International*, has said that the Israeli choreographer's art "lies in his capacity to balance abstraction and narration with finesse, creating works that impress themselves strongly upon us. He is one of only a few choreographers working in the Netherlands today who can structure a fragile equilibrium between humour, aggression, lyricism, sex and elegance."

**Kosmos (2015)** - In this piece for BJM, **Andonis Foniadakis** draws his inspiration from the frenetic pace of everyday urban life. The Greek choreographer finds the beauty in movements of crowds, moments of agitation, and the hustle and bustle of the city. This is a dance based on clear movement, where a mingling clan of dancers must come to terms with the presence of others.

#### About BJM:

Since its founding in 1972, BJM has become one of Canada's most popular dance companies. It has presented almost 3,000 performances in 65 countries to more than two million spectators, and is a veritable ambassador of Quebec and Canadian culture worldwide.

Since 1998, BJM has been under the masterly command of Artistic Director Louis Robitaille. His flair for attracting talented choreographers and presenting high calibre dance pieces keeps raising the bar for his team of performers and stage professionals. Mr. Robitaille has presented works by internationally acclaimed choreographers and is particularly interested in supporting and encouraging Canadian choreographers, composers and designers. The work of celebrated Canadian choreographers such as Dominic Dumais, Crystal Pite, Aszure Barton, Wen Wei Wang and more recently of Kristen Céré have enriched the BJM repertoire.

## SPEAKING OF DANCE CONVERSATIONS

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 7pm

**Location:** Djavad Mowafaghian World Art Centre, Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, SFU Woodward's, 149 W. Hastings St

**Topic: Identity and Location: Immigration and Cultural Integration**

**Moderator:** Janet Smith, Arts Editor, *The Georgia Straight*

**Guest speakers:** Rosario Ancer (Artistic Director, Flamenco Rosario & Vancouver International Flamenco Festival),

Henry Daniel (Professor of Dance and Performing Studies, Simon Fraser University and Choreographer), and

Chengxin Wei (Artistic Director, Moving Dragon Contemporary Dance)

DanceHouse is pleased to once again partner with SFU Woodward's to present **Speaking of Dance**, a series of **FREE** public dialogues and roundtable conversations about the world of dance, contextualizing it within culture and society.

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