

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Digidance Continues Celebration of Canadian Dance Creators with Screening of Jean-Pierre Perreault's Iconic Masterpiece: Joe**

***Premiering in 1984, Legendary Choreographer's Landmark Work  
Will Be Experienced Anew by Contemporary Audiences***

**Vancouver, BC – DanceHouse**, in partnership with **Digidance**, announce the exclusive online broadcast of Montreal choreographer **Jean-Pierre Perreault's (1947-2002)** milestone work **Joe - streaming March 17-23, 2021**. Having premiered in 1984 to critical acclaim, the visually arresting work is considered one of the most iconic creations in the Canadian dance canon and showcases the brilliance and scope of Perreault's vision, as a company of 32 power through a driving commentary on the human condition. Despite *Joe's* revered status in Canadian dance, the broadcast will mark many audiences' first opportunity to experience the massive spectacle, in particular for Vancouverites, as the work never toured to the west coast and has not been staged since 2005.

The broadcast of *Joe* is due to the coordinated effort of Digidance, a national initiative formed in response to COVID-19 between four of Canada's leading dance presenters: DanceHouse (Vancouver), Harbourfront Centre (Toronto), the National Arts Centre (Ottawa), and Danse Danse (Montreal), in collaboration with La Fondation Jean-Pierre Perreault and Radio-Canada Archives.

"We are thrilled to be a part of Digidance - and to join an initiative that not only celebrates the finest work happening today, but also shares historic visions like *Joe*," says Jim Smith, Artistic and Executive Director of DanceHouse and Digidance Partner. "In its time, Perreault's work marked a turning point in Canadian dance; it had an immense impact on an entire generation of young dance artists who currently define dance in Canada today - and we could not be more excited to share this iconic work with our audiences."

Hailed "as masterpiece for all time," "a cult piece" and "compared to a Beatles album, a book by Kundera or an Andy Warhol print," *Joe* presents a rich and profound image of the human condition that is so accurate and so moving that it remains forever imprinted in the memories of those who have seen it. Driven by the percussive sound of heavy work boots pounding the floor, 32 dancers - identically garbed in overcoats and fedoras - move in a compact mass from which individuals occasionally attempt to free themselves to escape a foreordained destiny.

The upcoming digital broadcast of *Joe* was produced in 1995 by Bernard Picard for Radio-Canada and features dancers from Perreault's own company, La Fondation Jean-Pierre Perreault, alongside artists from Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers and Dancemakers. The film not only pays tribute to one of Canada's greatest choreographers, but also allows the public to discover or rediscover the striking performance and its profound impact on contemporary dance.

As with all Digidance presentations, the screening will be supplemented with informative, additional content to contextualize and dive deeper into the work. Following the broadcast of *Joe*, a short documentary film, produced by Filigrane Archives, will shed light on the work's creation, significance, and legacy.

Perreault is considered one of Canada's most important choreographers. Winner of several prestigious national awards, including the Governor General's Award for the Arts, he is recognized globally for his contributions and innovations in contemporary dance. A thoroughly committed artist, Perreault was responsible for the stage design, choreography, lighting, and sound design of all his work. He placed fragile beings – intense, authentic, and "Perreault-esque" – in a world of vast architectural spaces. Racing, jumping, ruptures, sounds, and rhythms are the features of Perreault's style, a dance with

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deep roots in space and place and which, in part, creates its own music. Perreault's work constantly brings us face to face with human nature.

**For tickets and information on *Joe and Digidance*, visit: [dancehouse.ca](https://dancehouse.ca).**

Stay tuned for details on the next Digidance presentation to be announced this spring. Further information at: [dancehouse.ca](https://dancehouse.ca)

### **About Digidance**

Digidance is a new joint initiative of Canadian dance presenters to deliver exceptional, full length Canadian and international dance content online to patrons across the country. Created in July 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Digidance consists of the following leading dance presenters: [DanceHouse](https://dancehouse.ca) (Vancouver), [Harbourfront Centre](https://harbourfrontcentre.ca) (Toronto), the [National Arts Centre](https://nationalartscentre.ca) (Ottawa), and [Danse Danse](https://danse-danse.ca) (Montreal).

By joining expertise, experience, and international networks, the partner organizations are better equipped to pivot to presenting work online - a first for all four organizations. Beyond the short term response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions placed on presenting live work in theatres, Digidance will ensure a rich legacy of dance in Canada for future years through continued presentations and access to Canadian and international dance works without the barriers of transportation, physical mobility, and affordability.

### **LISTING INFORMATION**

***Joe***  
**Choreographed by Jean-Pierre Perreault**

Dates:	March 17–23, 2021 (Link Available for 7 Days) Streaming Worldwide
Price:	From \$15 + applicable taxes
Event Link:	<a href="https://dancehouse.ca">dancehouse.ca</a>

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**For further media information, contact:**

Laura Murray C. 604.418.2998  
[lmurray@mpmgarts.com](mailto:lmurray@mpmgarts.com)

**MURRAY PATERSON**  
MARKETING GROUP