

A PRODUCTION OF

pps | danse

IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH

DANSE
DANSE

CRÉATEUR DU MOUVEMENT

BAGNE

PRESS KIT



PPS Danse

PPS Danse was founded in 1989 by Pierre-Paul Savoie. Over the years the company has created some 20 works and given more than 700 performances in a dozen countries in the Americas and Europe.

Openness, creativity, humanism, sharing and commitment underpin and nourish the company's activities. These values are exemplified in its choreographic works and the steadfast efforts by **PPS Danse** to democratize contemporary dance. By investing in areas of creation, production and cultural mediation **PPS Danse** continues to affirm its position as a pillar of Quebec's dance community.

The company's artistry is inspired by the principle of encounter and its creations join the realm of dance-theatre. Characterized by an interdisciplinary form and an inherent humanity, the works reach out to general and youth audiences alike.

PPS DANSE TEAM

General and Artistic Director **PIERRE-PAUL SAVOIE**
 Assistant General Manager **ANOUEK LEBLANC-DOMINGUEZ**
 Technical Director **VALÉRIE BOURQUE**

Agent (International) **MENNO PLUKKER**
+1 514 524.7119 / MENNO@MENNOPLUKKER.COM

BAGNE

It was in Montreal in 1993 that the choreographers/performers Pierre-Paul Savoie and Jeff Hall created *Bagne*, one of their greatest triumphs. In 1998, they produced an equally successful female version. By 2001 they had given more than 100 performances of *Bagne*, the last one at the Joyce Theatre in New York where it won a prestigious Bessie Award for set design. In 2015, more than 22 years after the original version, the creators revived the production, updating the theme of this powerful and timeless work.

Confined in a stunning metallic structure, two men embrace under the watchful eyes of a captive audience. In this work at the crossroads of dance and theatre, the raw strength of the protagonists merges with a universal tenderness. The imprisoned bodies play out their energies in stark and sensitive gestures, offering a poignant ode to liberty and love.

Leigh **60 MINUTES**

CREATIVE TEAM

Concept, Choreography and Staging **PIERRE-PAUL SAVOIE** and **JEFF HALL** Performers **MILAN PANET-GIGON** and **LAEL STELLICK** (substitute **JONATHAN FORTIN**) Original Soundtrack **BERNARD FALAISE** Sound Design **LARSEN LUPIN** Scenography **BERNARD LAGACÉ** Lighting **MARC PARENT** Costume Design **LINDA BRUNELLE** Makeup Design **FLORENCE CORNET** Photographer **ROLLINE LAPORTE**

PIERRE-PAUL SAVOIE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | CHOREOGRAPHER

Choreographer, performer and stage director, Pierre-Paul Savoie is founder of the **PPS Danse** company. Acclaimed for his powerfully imagistic works and relevant themes, he has worked for stage, film and television, frequently collaborating with major theatrical, musical and circus institutions. His recent successes include: *Danse Lhasa Danse* (a tribute to Lhasa de Sela), Eugène Ionesco's *The Chairs*, and *Tales for Naughty Children* by Jacques Prévert.

Pierre-Paul has been honoured with many awards throughout his more than 25-year career recognizing, among other things, his presence on Quebec's artistic scene and his dedication to bring contemporary dance to a wider audience: the Jacqueline Lemieux Prize from the Canada Council for the Arts (1996), the Prix Attitude awarded by ROSEQ (2004), the Prix Hommage RIDEAU (2008), the Prix RIDEAU Tournée (2014) and the City of Montreal's Prix de l'action culturelle (2015).



JEFF HALL
CHOREOGRAPHER

Jeff Hall is a multi-faceted artist: choreographer, dancer, author and stage director. Throughout his prolific 28-year career he has creatively explored dance, film, theatre and the circus arts. He is recognized for the theatrical, athletic and spectacular style of his works which blend humour, dialogue and physical performance.

During his 10 years of collaboration with Pierre-Paul Savoie, they created four works including *BAGNE* and *Pôles* and were awarded the Jacqueline Lemieux Prize for choreography from the Canada Council for the Arts. As a performer he has worked for independent choreographers and for major companies including the Fondation Jean-Pierre Perreault and Carbone 14.

His most recent choreographies, *ZAIA* and *TOTEM*, were created for the Cirque du Soleil while also creating and directing his works presented in Chile and in Bali. In 2012 he founded Hallway Productions to produce and distribute his own artistic creations.

Photo MICHAEL SLOBODIAN

LAEL STELICK
PERFORMER

A graduate of John Abbott College and Concordia University's contemporary dance program, Lael Stellick has been performing in Montreal for 10 years as an actor, dancer and choreographer. He has participated in numerous artistic projects with choreographers and companies such as PPS Danse, Parts+Labour_Danse, Sasha Kleinplatz, Lara Kramer, Marie Béland and Virginie Brunelle. He has appeared in various films, videoclips and theatre creations.

Lael Stellick has also co-created works for the Collectif CHA including a current new collaboration with them, the *Moving-Pictures project*. Upcoming is a dance-theatre project entitled *Waiting*.

MILAN PANET-GIGON
PERFORMER

Milan Panet-Gigon discovered urban dance as a teenager and became interested in the fusion of different styles, including contemporary dance. A graduate of Concordia University's contemporary dance program, he stands out as a gifted, athletic and versatile performer.

In this capacity, Milan Panet-Gigon has collaborated with various artists, notably Dave St-Pierre, Sasha Kleinplatz and Virginie Brunelle.

EXCERPTS FROM REVIEWS

BAGNE (2015)

« 4 Stars. Created in 1993, Bagne remains a monumental work. In scenes of cruel beauty punctuated with gestures of supreme virility and tenderness, Bagne depicts the imprisonment of human beings. »

Luc Boulanger - **LA PRESSE**

« ... Relevant and powerful. A part of Montreal's choreographic heritage, in its own renaissance. (...) most of all this work evokes our inner prisons, our inability to break the chains of our egos, our difficulty to reach out to the other. »

Odile Tremblay - **LE DEVOIR**

« More than 20 years after its first creation, Bagne resonates as strongly as ever with us. This reworking shows just how contemporary the work is. (...) »

Bagne demands athleticism, aggressivity, physical strength, gentleness, and elicits a proud, outstanding performance by the two dancers. »

Daphnée Bédard - **LE SOLEIL**

« In this new form, Bagne achieves a new degree of aesthetic refinement, all the performance elements are in perfect cohesion. Pierre-Paul Savoie and Jeff Hall have masterfully adapted their work for today's audience while keeping the essence of the original. With its scenes of controlled intensity, Bagne has the effect of a slap in the face. At the end, the audience leaves deeply moved by the performance. »

Sara Thibault - **MONTHEATRE.QC.CA**