



PRESS RELEASE
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A remarkable success for *La Chambre Blanche* (re-creation 2008)

Montreal, August 31, 2009 – *La Chambre Blanche* (re-creation 2008) continues to gather momentum, heading to Europe a fifth time as part of the Festival Oriente Occidente.



Photo: Ginette Laurin, dancer: Gillian Seaward

Presented in its world premiere in Frankfurt and on tour in Palermo and Budapest in March 2008, the work met with immediate success among audiences and critics: *“Very few choreographical works [...] can be seen or seen again outside of the period in which they were created. [...] La Chambre Blanche by Canadian Ginette Laurin is an example of a dance piece that has done this very successfully”* (Frankfurter Rundschau, Frankfurt, March 2008).

A few months later, the company took the work back to Europe, presenting it at the prestigious Dance Umbrella Festival in London, among other venues. Dance magazine *Ballettanz* reaffirmed its success in the October 2008 issue: *“[...] the work shows the characteristics of a ‘classic’: its compact, rigorous composition opens the way to a profusion of sociopolitical, philosophical and psychological associations.”*

For ten evenings in February 2009, *La Chambre Blanche* (re-creation 2008) filled the Cinquième Salle of Place des Arts in Montreal, and was described by Catherine Lalonde, journalist at *Le Devoir*, as *“a milestone in our dance scene.”*

Still riding on a wave of enthusiasm, the work was presented yet again in Europe in March 2009, at the Muffathalle theatre in Munich, at Tanzhaus NRW in Dusseldorf, and at the Exister Festival in Milan. This summer, in its fourth European tour, it was enthusiastically received at the Festival de Marseille in France: *“Imprinted by personalities of a rare charisma, brusque movements and a masterful fusion of disciplines, [...] this piece resonates differently according to each person’s sensibilities. But it is an indisputably dense work.”* (D.B., *La Marseillaise*, Marseille, June 2009).

After its much-noticed passage through almost a dozen major European cities, *La Chambre Blanche* will be presented in the northern Italian city of Trento this September 7 and 8, at the highly-regarded Festival Oriente Occidente.

An exploration of theatricality, emotion, and the notion of confinement, *La Chambre Blanche* (re-creation 2008) is considered one of Ginette Laurin’s strongest works. Since its re-creation in 2008, it has been presented over 40 times to more than 7 000 people in Europe and Canada. The first version, created in 1992, was awarded that year’s Grand Prix of the Arts Council of the Montreal Urban Community, and the Dora Mavor Moore Prize in Toronto.

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