

SinhaDANSE



APRICOT TREES EXIST

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ARTISTIC VISION

Sinha Danse stems from a deep felt need of its founder, Roger Sinha, to reclaim his Indian heritage and to use this tradition to shape a modern expression of his reality. His work uses the universality of the body to explore cultural harmony and dissonance, and tensions created by the collision of East and West.

Sinha Danse's vocabulary merges the classical Indian dance with contemporary dance, martial arts, theatre and Bharata Natyam, a dance from southern India. Stories are important in Sinha's work, stories from poets and writers and stories of his own. He explores story telling in many ways, as spoken word or with interactive technology driven language and this, always with humour and simplicity.

Sinha Danse's mission is to continually break boundaries and explore new creative directions. By incorporating new media such as film, interactive technologies and sound, Sinha Danse wishes to produce interdisciplinary pieces where highly energetic dances are involved.

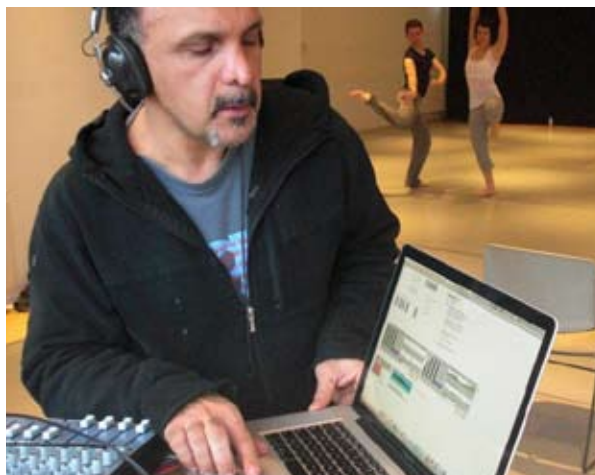


Photo: C. Debard Dancers: M-È Lafontaine, L.Ramsay

BIOGRAPHY

Born in London, England, of an Armenian mother and an Indian father, Roger Sinha was immersed in English culture from an early age. He has always said that he was closer to "Fish'n chips than Curry". When he was 8 years old, his family moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This newfound culture collided with the two others and this started his quest for his identity, the source of his work as an artist.

Roger Sinha, artistic director, choreographer and dancer founded Sinha Dance in 1991. The histories of Sinha Danse and its creator are linked together. His choreographic journey began with *Burning Skin* (1992). In 1996, Roger Sinha was awarded the Bonnie Bird Choreography Fund to create a work for the Transitions Dance Company at the Laban Centre in London. Also in 1996, *Benches* was created upon request of the Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers. A new version was recently presented in 2007. In 2005, *Thok* was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore award.

Roger Sinha recently developed an interest in video art and new technologies. The solo *Zeros & Ones* (2008) clearly express this passion with the use of film and interactive technology. In 2009, *Zeros & Ones*, *Quebasian Rhapsody* and *Burning Skin* toured 5 cities in India : Bangalore, Ahmedabad, New Delhi, Kolkata and Sattal. He realised two pieces as a filmmaker: *The Barber of Bangalore* was shot entirely in India and *Haters 'n Baiters: The Culture Collision*, won the popular vote for the Radio Canada International Roots competition in April 2010.

Besides creating for Sinha Danse he co-choreographed the piece *Tono*, with Sandra Laronde. This work by Toronto based Red Sky has been presented in both summer Olympics in Beijing and winter Olympics in Vancouver and was invited to perform at the Canadian Pavilion in Shanghai in May 2010.

APRICOT TREES EXIST (2004)

Apricot Trees Exist, inspired by *ALPHABET*, the celebrated epic poem by Danish experimentalist Inger Christensen, is Roger Sinha's cosmic dance ode to the metaphysical in everyday life.

The visionary, philosophical quality of the poem is enhanced through its metamorphosis into movement. Simple references to everyday life, such as trees, doves, fruit, or paper, give way to deeply resonant states of reflection. The mundane and miraculous are interconnected. Life and destruction are interdependent players in the vast drama of existence. Sinha weaves these dualities expertly: his dancers stride between the intimate and the universal, control and abandon, connection and aloneness.

Subtle but never far from the surface is Sinha's particular meshing of Eastern and Western dance influences, a perfect compliment to a work on the interplay of all things. As in his previous work, Sinha combines mudras (hand gestures) and the rhythmic footwork of Indian dance, with full body movements of modern, ballet and martial arts.

CRITICS

"Roger Sinha's beautifully crafted *Apricot Trees Exist* [] At once rooted in contemporary, upper body lyricism and grounded, angular bharatanatyam, Sinha's eccentric mix of east and west becomes, on the surface, an ecstatic paean to life. "

- Paula Citron *The Globe and Mail*, February 2007

"This hypnotic dance is in perfect harmony with with the poem of Christensen and makes us infinitely aware of each particle of the universe, of everything that exists inside of us, outside of us and despite of us. *Apricot Trees Exist* is worth seeing for the beauty of the vocabulary and in particular the surprising poem of Christensen."

- Stephanie Brody *La Presse*, October 2004

CREDITS

Choreographer : Roger Sinha

Rehearsal Direction : Sophie Michaud

Dancers : Tom Casey, David Flewelling, Sophie Lavigne, Benoît Leduc, Julie Marcil, Magdalena Nowecka

Music : Bertrand Chénier

Lighting : Philippe Dupeyroux

Costumes : Louis Hudon

Video conception / Philippe Dupeyroux

Projections : from an original concept of Roger Sinha

Text : Inger Christensen

English Translation : Susanne Nied

Voice : Roger Sinha (English)

UPCOMING SHOWS

A MATTER OF LIFE AND BREATH

Première, L'Agora de la danse, Montreal, March 9th-12th 2011

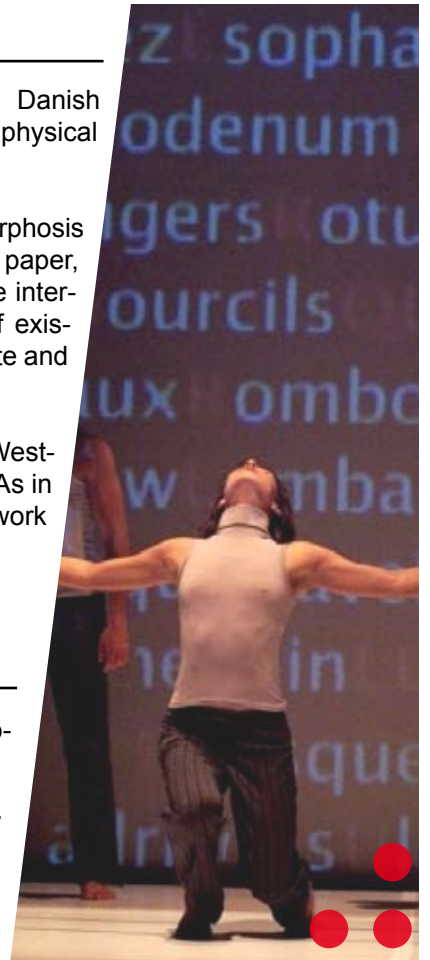


Photo: Michael Slobodian Dancer: Sophie Lavigne



DISTINCTIONS

Included in the repertory RAEV (Recognizing Artists Enfin Visibles 2010) of the English-Language Arts Network (ELAN)

Haters 'n Baiters: the Culture Collision won the popular vote for the Radio-Canada International Roots competition in April 2010

The Barber of Bangalore was chosen as a finalist for The Life as a Lemon Multicultural Short Film Festival in NYC

First tour in India, February 2009

Remote broadcast for Freedom, Bravo Television, 2007

Thok, adapted and filmed for "Dance With Me", Bravo Television, 2005

Borders, commissioned by the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, 2004

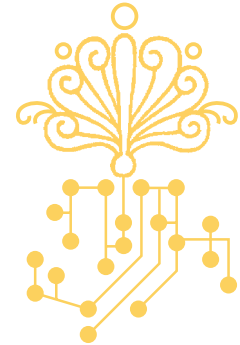
Thok nominated for a Dora Mavor award for outstanding new choreography, 2004

Recipient of the CanDance Creation Fund for *Glace Noire*, 1999

Roger Sinha winner of the North American Choreography Award given by the Bonnie Bird Creation Fund supported by the Laban Centre — London, England, 1996

Recipient of the CanDance Creation Fund for *From a Crack in the Earth...Light*, 1995

Burning Skin is adapted and filmed for the CBC series "In Performance", 1994



CONTACT

SINHA DANSE

4430 Parthenais, Montreal, QC, H2H 2G5
Phone (514) 524-7997 Fax: (514) 524-9977
info@sinhadanse.com
www.sinhadanse.com

ÉQUIPE

Roger Sinha

Artistic director, choreographer
roger@sinhadanse.com

Adrien Bussy

Director, development and marketing
adrien@sinhadanse.com

Catherine Debard

Administrative and communications assistant
catherine@sinhadanse.com

Véronique Fontaine

Administrative agent
veronique@diagramme.org

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