

SinhaDANSE

Artistic Vision

Sinha Dance focuses on the creation of original dance works that integrate contemporary and classical Indian dance, theatre, martial arts, ballet and improvisation.

Sinha Dance promotes cultural diversity and the support of visible minority artists. The company has made it priority to break down cultural borders through artistic creation, to diversify its productions, to create contemporary works inspired by the collision of western and eastern culture. The pieces revolve around the body as a whole in order to explore the cultural harmony or the tension felt in modern India. The use of beautiful and expressive mudras (hand and fingers gestures from southern India) added with contemporary dance, ballet, martial arts and rhythmically complex footwork of Indian dance draw a genuine portrait of cultural differences.

History

Sinha Danse

Roger Sinha, artistic director, choreographer and dancer founded Sinha Dance in 1991. Since then, the company has created more than 30 pieces. His choreographic journey began with *Burning Skin* (1992). Numerous group works followed and 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 by the Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers. *Loha/Thok* (2002-2002) was created and greatly appreciated by the critics and the public due to the symbiosis and the elegance in movements performed by Natasha Bakht and Roger Sinha. The Agora de la Danse hosted the show for the 2001-2002 program and 7 performances were presented. *Thok* was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore award in 2005. *Loha* was a creation that was born from a collaboration that keeps flourishing between the two Canadian choreographers. The most recent being the duet *Thread* created in 2007.

Apricot Trees Exist took was created in 2004. The sextet is brilliantly interpreted and won the heart of the public and the critics right from the start. It was programmed at L'Agora de la Danse for a total of 8 performances. The following year it was presented in 14 theaters in the greater Montreal area, several cities in the province of Quebec and in Toronto.

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.

In 2008, Sinha was invited as co-choreographer for the piece *Tono*, directed and created by Sandra Laronde, artistic director of Red Sky Performance, a company based in Toronto that connects world Indigenous cultures. *Tono* was selected at the Luminato festival in Toronto in 2009, the Beijing Olympics, and the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad. Most recently, the show was invited to perform at the World Expo in Shanghai in May 2010.

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Roger Sinha
Artistic director, choreographer, dancer

Born in London in 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 Roger 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.

After 3 years studying economics at University of Toronto, in 1984, Sinha he left academics and decided to devote his life to dancing.

After 2 years dancing for Danse-Partout in Quebec City he moved to Montreal in 1989 and danced for choreographers such as Jean-Pierre Perreault and Sylvain Émard Danse. In 1990, as part of his choreographic research, Roger discovered Bharata Natyam a classical dance form from southern India. The integration of this technique in his dance vocabulary allowed him to reclaim his heritage and to express his pride in being Indian.

His first solo *Burning Skin*, was an international success and launched his career as choreographer. His inspiration stems from a deep felt and intense need 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. Beautifully expressive mudras and the rhythmically complex footwork of Indian dance combine with the full body movements of modern, ballet and the martial arts.

All of Roger's history and experiences both innate and acquired intermingle and punctuate his creative signature. Martial arts, ballet, contemporary dance and later on Bharata Natyam, participate in his distinctive choreography.

Besides being a choreographer, he is also a filmmaker. His first film *The barber of Bangalore* was shot entirely in India and has been presented in numerous festivals throughout the world. His second dance video *Hater 'n Baiters: The culture collision* won the popular vote for the Radio Canada International Roots competition in April 2010.

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Apricot Trees Exists

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.

"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)

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Shows
Up-Coming

MATTER OF LIFE AND BREATH, 2009 (Sextet)

- Residency at Salle Pauline-Julien, Mtl (QC), Janv 2011
- Residency at Centennial Theater lennoxville (QC), Feb. 2011
- Première, Agora de la Danse, Montreal, March 2011

ZEROS & ONES

- Older & reckless, Toronto (ON), Nov. 2010
- Montreal Culture Days, Mtl (QC), Sept. 2010

MATTER OF LIFE AND BREATH, 2009 (excerpt)

- Théâtre de Verdure, Mtl (QC), July 2010
- Dancing on The Edge, Vancouver (BC), July 2010

TONO, 2008

- Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad, Feb. 2010
- Shanghai World exposition, Shanghai, China, May 2010

HATERS 'N BAITERS: THE CULTURE COLLISION – video art

- ROOTS Contest- Radio-Canada International, MTL (QC), March 2010
- Washougal International Film Festival, Washougal, WA, USA, Aug. 2010

THE BARBER OF BANGALORE – art video

- SAVAC – Monitor 6: New South Asian Short, Toronto (ON), March 2010

ZEROS & ONES, 2008 (Solo) & THREAD, 2008 (duo)

- Canada Dance Festival, Ottawa (ON), June 2010
- Théâtre de Verdure, Mtl (QC), July 2010
- Eclectik – Hi-Tech/ Lo-Tech/ No-Tech, Mtl (QC), mai 2010
- Show at théâtre Leonor et Alvin Segal, Centre Saidye Bronfman, Mtl (QC), Jan. 2010
- Show at la Maison de la culture Rosemont-La-Petite-Patrie, Mtl (QC), Jan. 2010
- Show at la Maison de la culture Pointe-aux-Trembles, Mtl (QC), Feb. 2010
- Show at la Maison culturelle et communautaire Montréal-Nord, Mtl (QC), Feb. 2010
- Show at la Maison de la culture Mercier, Mtl, (QC), Feb. 2010
- Show at la Maison de la culture Plateau-Mont-Royal, Mtl (QC), Feb. 2010
- Show at l'auditorium Patro Le Prévost, Mtl (QC), Feb. 2010
- Show at la Salle Jean-Grimaldi, Mtl (QC), Feb. 2010
- Tournée dans 5 villes de l'Inde: Bangalore, Ahmadabad, New Delhi, Kolkata, Bhoomika, Inde, Feb. 2009
- Residency and show at MAI, Mtl (QC), May – June 2008
- Show at Studio CAM/off CINARS, Mtl (QC), Nov. 2008

THREAD (duo)

- Show at théâtre Leonor et Alvin Segal, Centre Saidye Bronfman, Mtl (QC), Jan. 2010
- Show at la Maison de la culture Rosemont-La-Petite-Patrie, Mtl (QC), Jan. 2010
- Show at la Maison de la culture Pointe-aux-Trembles, Mtl (QC), Feb. 2010
- Show at la Maison culturelle et communautaire Montréal-Nord, Mtl (QC), Feb. 2010
- Show at la Maison de la culture Mercier, Mtl, (QC), Feb. 2010
- Show at la Maison de la culture Plateau-Mont-Royal, Mtl (QC), Feb. 2010
- Show at l'auditorium Patro Le Prévost, Mtl (QC), Feb. 2010
- Show at la Salle Jean-Grimaldi, Mtl (QC), Feb 2010
- Residency and show at MAI – Montréal Arts Interculturels, Mtl (QC), May - June 2008
- Research and creation at Attakalari center, Bangalore, Inde, Jan. – April 2008

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Shows
Past

QUEBEASIAN RHAPSODY, 2008 (Duo)

- Indian tour: Bangalore, Ahmedabad, New Delhi, Kolkata, Boomika, Feb. 2009
- Show at Toronto Fleck Dance Theatre, Canada, Feb. 2009
- Show at La Rotonde, Québec (QC), Oct. 2008
- Show at Monument National, Mtl (QC), Sept. 2008
- Show at IAAC, New York, É-U, Aug. 2008

BENCHES, 2006 (Sextet)

- Remount of Benches, Congress Center, Mtl (QC), June 2010
- 2 weeks at l'Agora de la Danse, Montreal (Qc.), Sept. 2006

BALLOONS

- 6 shows at Dusk Dances, Toronto (ON), July 2006

APRICOT TREES EXIST, 2004 (Sextet)

- Théâtre Hector-Charland, L'Assomption (Qc.), March 2008
- Théâtre Lionel-Groulx, Ste-Thérèse (Qc.), Oct. 2007
- Théâtre de Verdure, Montreal (Qc.), July 2007
- Théâtre Centennial, Lennoxville (Qc.), April 2007
- Théâtre de Baie-Comeau, (Qc.), March 2007
- 2 shows at CanAsian Dance Festival, Toronto (Ont.), Feb. 2007
- 10 shows at CAM en tournée, Montreal (Qc.), Nov. 2006 — April 2007
- Maison de la culture Montreal-Nord, Montreal (Qc.), Dec. 2006
- 2 sold-out weeks at l'Agora de la Danse, Montreal (Qc.), Oct. 2004

THOK, 2002 (Quartet)

- Théâtre de Verdure (with Burning Skin), Montreal (Qc.), July 2004
- 2 shows (with LOHA) at the Dancing on the Edge Festival, Vancouver (B.C.), July 2004
- 3 shows (with LOHA) at CanAsian Danse Festival, Toronto (Ont.), April 2004
- Arts center Brock University (with LOHA), St-Catherines (Ont.), March 2004
- 7 shows (with LOHA) at Jouer dans l'île, Montreal (Qc.), Oct. 2003 — March 2004
- 3 shows at Live Art Productions, Halifax (N.S.), March 2003
- 2 sold-out weeks at l'Agora de la Danse, Montreal (Qc.), Feb. 2002

LOHA, 2000 (Duo)

- MAI, Montreal, (Qc), May-June 2008
- Festival Dance Kapital, Ottawa, (Ont.), Aug. 2007
- Kala Nidhi Arts Festival, Toronto (Ont.), Sept. 2006
- Montréal High Lights Festival, Place des arts, Montreal (Qc.), Feb. 2001
- Broadcast on Radio-Canada, Performances series, 2001
- Springdance Festival, Utrecht (Netherlands) April 2001
- The World Summit, Musée de la Civilisation, Hull (Qc.), Nov. 2000
- Canada Dance Festival, Ottawa (Ont.), June 2000

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Distinctive achievements

- *Tono*, created by Sandra Laronde from the company Red Sky and co-choreographed by Roger Sinha wins the Dora Mavor Moore awards in the category “Outstanding Original Sound Design/Composition”
- Recommended for inclusion in the Recognizing Artists (RAEV) project, 2010
- Roger Sinha's first film, *The Barber of Bangalore* was chosen as a finalist for The Life as a Lemon Multicultural Short Film Festival in New York City.
- 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 Moore 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