

# 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 more than 10 pieces to its repertoire. The journey began with Burning Skin (1992), followed by Benches (1996) created upon request by the Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers. Loha/Thok (2002-2002) was then 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. This creation is born from a collaboration that keeps flourishing between the two Canadian choreographers.

Apricot Trees Exist took place on the dance floors in 2004. The sextet is brilliantly interpreted and won the heart of the public and the critics right from the first showings. It performed in 14 theaters in the greater Montreal area and appeared once again in the program of the Agora de la Danse for a total of 8 performances.

Roger Sinha is very interested in video art and new technologies. The solo Zeros & Ones (2008) clearly express that passion. While the show Zeros & Ones, Quebasian Rhapsody and Burning Skin was touring in India, the first short film, The Barber of Bangalore, is shot. These three pieces have beamed on 5 cities of India: Bangalore, Ahmedabad, New Delhi, Kolkata and Bhoomika.

Later in 2008, Sinha was invited as co-choreographer the piece Tono, directed and created by Sandra Laronde, artistic director and choreographer of Red Sky, a company based in Toronto that addresses themes of cultural differences. Tono was selected at the Luminato festival in Toronto in 2009, the Beijing Olympics, and the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad. Most recently, the show is invited to perform at the Universal Exhibition of Shanghai in China in May 2010.

# SinhaDANSE

Roger Sinha

Artistic director, choreographer, dancer

Born in London, England of an Armenian mother and an Indian father, Roger Sinha was immersed in English culture from an early age. He said to be brought up on "Fish and chips rather than khari". When Sinha was 8 years old, his family moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The Canadian culture collided with the two others and started a reflective process as regards to his identity.

In his early twenties, Roger Sinha enrolled at the University of Toronto to study Economics. By the third year, he was convinced that fate had chosen otherwise, he then started to take dance lessons. In this parallel activity, born a relentless desire to dance which later led him to reconnect with his heritage through movement and creation.

In 1984, Sinha decided to devote his life to dance. In 1990, as part of his choreographic research, Roger discovered Bharata Natyam one of the oldest classical dance of India. The integration of this technique in his dance vocabulary allowed him to reclaim his heritage and to express his pride of being Indian. He continues his research as a dancer for the companies such as Jean-Pierre Perreault and Sylvain Émard Danse, then as a choreographer with the piece Burning Skin, his first solo work. These traditions either innate or acquired intermingle and punctuate his creative signature. Martial arts, ballet, contemporary dance and later on Bharata Natyam have contributed to the distinctive pieces Roger Sinha creates.

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## Haters 'n Baiters : The culture collision

### **Synopsis**

Born in 1960 in London, England, to Armenian and Indian parents, choreographer Roger Sinha was immersed in British culture from an early age. He was "closer to fish'n chips than he was to curry...". In 1968 his family moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This newfound culture clashed with those of his early childhood. In London, Roger had many white friends, but in Saskatoon, he was the only child of color in his class... and he was bullied every day for weeks. Through rap, music and dance, Roger tells the story of the racist reactions he encountered as a boy, upon arriving in Saskatoon in the late 1960s.

### Credit

Performed by

Roger Sinha

&

Tom Casey, Ghislaine Doté, Elise  
Legrand, Laurence Ramsay,  
Marie-Ève Lafontaine, Krystel Pitre,  
Marie-Pier Bazinet, Élise Bergeron,  
Lisanne Goodhue, Marie-Michèle  
Poissant, Amélie Valois, Jessica Viau.

Sound Editing and Audio Postproduction

Dino Giancola

Production Coordinator

Arnold Brookhuis

Produced and Directed by

Roger Sinha

Cinematography

Zacharie Fay

Camera Assistance

Reda Enan

Video Editing

Roger Sinha

Video Postproduction

Fancis Hanneman

Original Music by

Gurpeet Singh Chana

Arnold Brookhuis

Production Manageme

For Sinha Danse

Roger Sinha                      Artistic and General Direction  
Veronique Fontaine                      Administration  
Sandra Berrouard                      Administration

Frame dimension : 1440 x 810 pixels

# SinhaDANSE

Shows  
Up-Coming

## **MATTER OF LIFE AND BREATH, 2009 (Sextet)**

- Residency at Salle Pauline-Julien, Mtl (QC), Janv 2010
- Residency at Centennial Theater lennoxville (QC), Feb. 2011
- Première, Agora de la Danse, Montreal, March 2011

## **MATTER OF LIFE AND BREATH, 2009 (excerpt)**

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

## **ZEROS & ONES**

- Canada Dance Festival, Ottawa (ON), June 2010
- Théâtre de Verdure, Mtl (QC), July 2010
- Older & reckless, Toronto (ON), Nov. 2010
- Montreal Culture Days, Mtl (QC), Sept. 2010

## **THREAD, 2008 (Solo)**

- Canada Dance Festival, Ottawa (ON), June 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)**

- 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

## **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

# SinhaDANSE

## Distinctive achievements

- 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