

# SinhaDANSE

## BURNING SKIN

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## Artistic Vision

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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 born from the collision of East and West.



Sinha Danse's vocabulary merges contemporary dance, martial arts, theatre and Bharata Natyam, a classical 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.

## Biography

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Roger was born in England to an Armenian mother and an Indian father and later moved at the age of eight to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

After graduating from Toronto Dance Theatre, he settled in Montreal and quickly became involved in several collaborations within the blossoming local artistic community.

In 1991, he formed his company Sinha Danse and began developing his distinct choreographic language based on an intermingling of his Indian background and Canadian culture.

More than 20 shows were on tour across Canada and overseas. This unique fusion of influences has given birth to hybrid choreographies that are unquestionably distinctive.

## Burning Skin (1992)

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In 2017, Roger Sinha revisited his 1992 success which won unanimous praise from critics and spectators. We seem to be heading more and more into a society which wants to deny the legitimate place of people of color. We see it so much now with the way we are treating refugees and immigrants. New to the work, Roger Sinha has incorporated the video, *Haters 'n Baiters: The culture collision*. He is rapping live while the video is projected.

*Burning Skin* was inspired by an autobiography entitled *The Rainbow Sign* by British author Hanif Kureishi, the writer of *My Beautiful Laundrette*.

While Roger was nurturing a growing interest in his Indian heritage, this story returned him to his childhood, affecting him in an extremely personal manner.

Roger draws his vocabulary from contemporary dance, martial arts, ballet, Bharata Natyam, and his own improvisation-based vocabulary. *Burning Skin* tells of the violent racial confrontations of Roger's youth.



## Credits

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**CHOREOGRAPHY AND LYRICS** / ROGER SINHA **DANCE** / MARK MEDRANO  
/ **TEXT** / HANIF KUREISHI / **ORIGINAL MUSIC** / CHARMAINE LEBLANC,  
DINO GIANCOLA, VOICE GANESH ANANDAN / **OTHER MUSIC** / NUSRAT  
FATEHALIKHAN, JOHANN STRAUSS / **MUSICAL DESIGN AND DIRECTION** /  
ROGER SINHA / **TAJ MAHAL CREATED BY** / ALAIN CADIEUX / **WARDROBE** /  
JOSÉE GAGNON / **LIGHTING** / CAROLINE ROSS / **TECHNICAL DIRECTION**  
/ JACK PILON

## Reviews

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«Touching, powerful, sad and funny, this solo isn't conventional at all. [...] a program loaded with emotions and images, which some of the most beautiful remain those of a dance up to the fingertips.».

**Andrée Martin, La Devoir – April 28 1997**

« An unusual, and thought-provoking work by a skilled and engaging performer. »

**John Percival, The Times, London, 1993**

# Distinctions

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Winner of the **Cultural Diversity Prize in Dance**, given with a \$ 10,000 bursary, presented by the Conseil des arts de Montréal and the PRIX DE LA DANSE DE MONTREAL, Nov. 2016

*Haters n Baiters: The Culture Collision* videoclip wins the Audience Award at the Racines de Radio Canada International contest, 2010

*The Barber of Bangalore* was selected as a finalist for the Multicultural Short Film Festival in New York, 2009

First Indian tour, 6 shows in 5 cities, Feb. 2009

TV report about Roger Sinha, *Freedom*, on Bravo Television, 2007

*Thok* Television adaptation for Dance with me, Bravo Television, 2005

*Borders*, sponsorship from Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation, 2004

*Thok* is nominated in the “best new choreography” category at the Dora Mavor Moore Awards, 2004

Recipient of Candance creation of Fund for *Glace Noire*, 1999

Recipient of Laban Centre’s Bonnie Bird Creation Fund, London, England, 1996

Recipient of the Candance Creation Fund for *A crack in the Earth... Light*, 1995

*Burning Skin* Television adaptation for In Performance CBC series, 1994

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## Team

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## Contact

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