

# SYLVAIN ÉMARD

## DANSE



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## Le Grand Continental

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"Two hundred people dance their hearts out.  
What's not to like?"

Paula Citron, The Globe and Mail

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A prolific and internationally respected artist, Montreal-based Sylvain Émard created his own dance company Sylvain Émard Danse in 1990, quickly establishing a reputation for a very original style. Highly theatrical at first, his work soon evolved into a more formal approach to dance. Ever since *Ozone*, *Ozone* (1987), his first solo, up to *Preludes* (2020), a site specific diptych for 20 dancers, he has been exploring the territory of human nature through the force and strength of the body. His repertoire now includes over thirty original pieces that have had a resounding impact all over the world.

Sylvain Émard's unique style has led to invitations to work as guest choreographer in theatre, opera and cinema. These collaborations include his joining forces with Robert Lepage in 2005 to work on the opera *1984* by Lorin Maazel, presented in London and Milan.

Sylvain Émard has received numerous prestigious awards, such as the Jean A. Chalmers Choreographic Award (1996). He is also co-founder of the Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique.

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Mix popular tradition and contemporary art.

Combine highly festive line dancing with the fluidity and expressiveness of contemporary dance.

When Sylvain Émard accepted the challenge of this unlikely marriage, he had no idea of the enthusiastic audience response he would unleash or of how extremely popular it would become.

Since the first presentation of *Le Grand Continental* in 2009 during Montreal's Festival TransAmériques, this galvanizing mélange of line dancing and contemporary dance has featured casts of 75 up to 375 local amateur dancers of all ages, background and ethnicities around the world. From North and South America to Oceania, Asia and Europe, some 3,000 dancers participated in one or more of its 21 distinct editions, which won over 120,000 spectators.

All driven by the pure pleasure of movement, these dance lovers will no doubt have your city swinging to their energetic vibes. The marriage of art and the village fête has indeed been consummated and the result is highly invigorating!

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Year created:	2009	Length of show:	30 minutes
Approx. get-in / get out:	Varies	Number. of people on road:	1
Scale:	Large scale	Capacity:	500-2000
Language:	Non-text based	Audience type:	Suitable for all
Workshops available:	Yes		
Performance area:	Large outdoor area no obstacles, no grass audience surrounds the dance area		