

## **THE SURSAUT SQUAD**

### **Dance invades the schools of the Eastern Townships**

SHERBROOKE, SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – The Sursaut Dance Company is happy to announce the launch of *The Sursaut Squad*, a special brigade to be deployed in schools throughout the Eastern Townships, with a mandate to invest the schools in order to bring dance to life there. This activity created to measure to be brought to elementary and secondary schools, aims notably to make contemporary dance and related artistic approaches better known, while highlighting the importance of movement and expression in the overall development of the student.

Initiated by Francine Châteauvert, artistic director and general manager of the company, this cultural outreach activity presents itself in the form of a workshop involving three dancers, the choreographer, and a facilitator. The students will be presented choreographic excerpts by the dancers, and will also actively participate in the workshop by learning movement sequences and experimenting in choreographic creation. It is also an opportunity for the students to exchange with the performers, in particular about the daily exercise of their profession.

This outreach project stems from a number of observations, notably the pressing need to heighten awareness concerning creative dance, often poorly known by students and teachers, and the need to consolidate the place of dance in school, so it can be present throughout the education process. The initiative also aims to make access to dance easier, especially for schools in disadvantaged communities, and those in rural areas. By means of this accessible activity, the company hopes to bring dance to the students in their space, in order to open the doors to this art.

*The Sursaut Squad* is an initiative made possible by special funding received from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, in the context of a call for projects for young audiences. The project will be deployed in schools this fall, and will continue throughout the 2017-2018 season.

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