

Ballets Jazz Montréal, for the first time in Romania at *JTI Encounters* **“Dance Me”, “a visual feast”, “joy of sound”**

Bucharest, October 9th - The Ballets Jazz Montréal Dance Company comes to Romania for the first time, at the 24th edition of *JTI Encounters* with the show **“Dance Me”**, which will be presented on **16 and 17 November, 19:30 hours** on the stage of the National Theater in Bucharest.

“Dance Me” is inspired by the rich and profound activity of the poet, artist and composer from Montréal, Leonard Cohen. Enjoying Cohen’s approval the show is a riveting homage to the famous artist.

A team of famous creators combines in **“Dance Me”** powerful scenic, visual, musical, dramaturgical, and choreographic elements that pay tribute to one of Montreal’s greatest ambassadors. According to <https://www.bjmdanse.ca/en/dance-me/>, dance, music, lighting, scenography, and videography all come together in this unforgettable show, for which Ballet Jazz Montréal has been granted exclusive dance rights for five years.

Three choreographers with complementary traits and personalities, Andonis Foniadakis, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and Ihsan Rustem, create an intense and profound universe. The artistic direction is signed by Louis Robitaille, and the intense and bold dramaturgy is the creation of Éric Jean.

“Three internationally renowned choreographers, 14 exceptional dancers, an amazing scenic production by Éric Jean with sumptuous lights, emotional video images and thousands of spectacular effects [...] An ingenious and sophisticated “mise en scene” make this complex and diversified work a visual feast and a joy of the sound”, as the Huffington Post wrote about **“Dance Me”**.

“We are impressed by the fluidity of the dancers in the group scenes. [...] Dancers show flexibility, rapidity, precision and sensuality [...]” (Radio Canada).

“Dance Me” – Music by Leonard Cohen is clever, oblique, and experiential. It washes over you like a shower of song and thought. It belongs in the pantheon of Canadian dance treasures.” (Paula Citron, art critic and journalist, has written for over 25 years on dance topics in The Globe, The Mail, Opera Canada magazine etc.).

“This year JTI celebrates 30 years, a history which forms part of the good that happened in Romania after 1990. We are proud that since 2000, and without any interruption, we have succeeded in organizing an event such as *JTI Encounters*. It hasn’t been easy during this time but together with our team of collaborators, Valerian Mareş and Silvia Ghiţă, we have maintained exceptionally high standards in bringing to Romania famous companies or shows presented as premieres in our country. The joy with which the public anticipates a new show, the standing ovations for minutes and minutes, the halls which seem insufficient for the increasing numbers of the public from year to year, all show that we are doing the right thing and that we should continue”, as stated by Gilda Lazăr, Director Corporate Affairs and Communication of JTI Romania, Moldova and Bulgaria.

Join us for the 24th edition of *JTI Encounters*!

Tickets are available at the box office of the National Theatre in Bucharest and online in Eventim.ro and Bilet.ro networks.

Launched in 2000 by the famous ballet company Bejart Ballet Lausanne, *JTI Encounters* were dedicated mainly to dance, hosting renowned dancers, choreographers and ballet companies: Nacho Duato and Compania Nacional De Danza, Joaquin Cortes, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Tango Pasion, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, Sylvie Guillem and Russell Maliphant, Gigi Căciuleanu and the Chilean National Ballet, Alonzo King Lines Ballet, Vortice Dance Company, Maria Pagés and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Akram Khan Company, Quartet Gala-Mats Ek, Ana Laguna, Susanne Linke and Dominique Mercy; in 2017 “Noism”, the most important contemporary dance company in Japan; in 2018 the “Martha Graham” Dance Company, and in 2019 the company IT Dansa, of the Institut del Teatre in Barcelona. *JTI Encounters* from 2020 and 2021 were postponed because of the pandemic, and took place one year later. The 2020 edition, which took place in 2021, had Wynton Marsalis as its guest, the most important contemporary trumpet player and Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. In 2022, the Jean-Claude Gallotta Dance company presented *My Ladies Rock* in Bucharest and Sibiu, within the Sibiu International Theatre Festival, and *Aterballetto*, the most important Italian dance company, presented *Don Juan*.

The event *JTI Encounters with Ballets Jazz de Montréal* is organized, as usual, by Art Production Foundation, with the artistic counselling of Silvia Ghiţă.

General producer: **Art Production Foundation**

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