

# Harold Rhéaume



Photo Brigitte Thériault

**Le fils d'Adrien has been a pillar of Quebec's contemporary dance community since it was** formed in 1999. The company's choreographer is Harold Rhéaume, whose prolific 20-year career began in Ottawa in 1989 (with the Groupe Dance Lab) followed by a stint in Montreal (1993-2000) before settling in Quebec City.

Rhéaume's love of classic Hollywood musicals comes through in his signature style – accessible, visually stunning and full of human warmth. His emotional, expressive, and often hilarious productions speak to a large and diverse audience on both sides of the Atlantic.

Productions like *Écho* (2000), *Morta* (2002) and *C.O.R.R.* (2003) established Rhéaume's reputation as a choreographer whose heartfelt productions strike a chord with the public. Rhéaume's work for young audiences has been equally well received; these include *Les Cousins* (2000), *F.U.L.L.* (2003) and, more recently, *Mechanical Variations* (at Montreal's Festival Les Coups de Théâtre in 2008, then in the Paris region in January 2009).

Another Rhéaume production, *CLASH*, has been making noise since 2005. This poppy, brash and colourful show toured the length and breadth of Quebec through 2009, with a stop-off in Liverpool, England for the LEAP Festival of Contemporary Dance.

2008 was Quebec City's 400th Anniversary and a year of breakthroughs for Rhéaume. *Le fil de l'Histoire*, a site-specific, interactive choreographed procession was a highlight of the festivities. Over the course of 10 representations 5000 spectators "grasped the thread," joining in the production, engendering solemnly emotional moments of human contact.

*Le fil* garnered critical acclaim, captured the public imagination, and earned Rhéaume the *Prix du développement culturel* at Quebec City's Award for Excellence in Culture and the Arts (2008).

Riding high on this success, *Le fils d'Adrien* unleashed another hit, *NU*. Premiering as part of La Rotonde's 2008 season, the show played to sold-out houses leaving audiences thoroughly convinced and deeply touched.