

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.