

Le Petit Continental

**Condensed
version of
*Le Grand
Continental***

**Participatory
work**

**With 50
amateur
dancers**

SYLVAIN ÉMARD **DAN
SE**



In 2009 the renowned choreographer, Sylvain Émard presented *Le Grand Continental*[®] at the Festival TransAmériques. This contemporary line dance featuring hundreds of amateur dancers of all ages, cultural origins and backgrounds has since then been performed across the planet.

With *Le Petit Continental*, Sylvain Émard continues to spread the infectious joy conveyed by *Le Grand Continental*[®], but presented in a smaller version. The residents of your city thus have an opportunity to take part in the thrilling experience of performing a concentrate of *Grand Continental*[®]. to appreciative audiences. During the course of 8 rehearsals, 50 participants aged 10 to 80+ will learn the steps to a 10-minute choreography. They will perform an excerpt from this extremely popular show, and will also be creating an original excerpt that will enthrone this presentation of *Petit Continental*. For the very first time, Sylvain Émard is calling on the dancers to create a unique part of the choreography, something they can call their own.

A playful, democratic and profoundly human experience.

Le Petit Continental

“What pleasant memories! What an exhilarating experience! And such generosity, thoughtfulness and patience with me on your part! You make a great team.”

— Luciella Teolis, dancer and oldest member of the group at 82, Saint-Léonard, Montréal, 2023

“With a special mention to Sylvain for offering us this unique opportunity to experience such beautiful moments. And to Julie and Nathalie for all their work with us! This morning, I was still making dance moves in my kitchen when it suddenly hit me that it was already behind us... But the experience will stay with us forever!!”

— Nicole Tarazi, dancer, Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Montréal, 2023

“I first met choreographer Sylvain Émard at *Le Super Méga Continental* in 2017. His beautiful choreography that spanned ethnicity, knowledge, age and culture made me fall in love with dance.”

— Xing Qi, dancer, L’Île-Bizard–Sainte-Geneviève, Montréal, 2022



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Calendar

2024	SEPT	Parking lot of Cégep Édouard-Montpetit, Théâtre de la Ville, Longueuil
2023	JULY	Park Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Montréal (45 amateur dancers)
	JUNE	Jean-Talon East Street, Fête des voisins Scène culturelle, park Wilfrid-Bastien, Saint-Léonard, Montréal (45 amateur dancers)
2022	JUNE	Esplanade of Cégep Gérard-Godin, Salle Pauline-Julien, Île-Bizard–Sainte-Geneviève, Montréal <i>ON danse Le Petit Continental</i> !, Circuit-Est centre-chorégraphique, in paternship with Espace Transition, Montréal
2020	FEV	Le Petit Continental, Maison de la culture Maisonneuve, Mercier–Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Montréal
2019	OCT	Place du Village-de-la-Pointe-aux-Trembles, Rivière-des-Prairies–Pointe-aux-Trembles, Montréal

On tours

Line dancing transcends all generational and cultural barriers. A new version of *Le Grand Continental*® has been adapted to travel as a touring show. This 10-minute work is transposed to each city visited, incorporating local amateur and professional performers to create a unique and unifying event, thus provoking a real sense of pride and belonging within the host community. The process consists of eight 2-hour rehearsals spread over one or two months, culminating in a dress rehearsal followed by one or more public performances. Sylvain Émard will travel to the host city at key moments, supported by a rehearsal director and two local performers who will assist them.

LENGHT	DANCERS ON STAGE	TEAM ON TOUR	DANCE FLOOR	STAGE SETTING TIME
TEN (10) MINUTES	FIFTY OF AMATEUR DANCERS	SYLVAIN ÉMARD	40' x 70' 12 M x 21 M	TWO (2) TO FOUR (4) HOURS



History of *Le Grand Continental*

Le Grand Continental® is a hybrid work that blends line dancing with contemporary dance. Initially presented at the Festival TransAmériques in 2009, it was performed for three consecutive years at the FTA to great praise, growing from 65 to 210 participants. In September 2017 Sylvain Émard expanded his horizons with his *Le Super Méga Continental*. That mega version saw 375 Montrealers perform the piece at Place des Festivals to celebrate the city's 375th anniversary. That breath of fresh air has been swept far beyond its hometown. Since its creation, it has been performed across Canada, in the U.S., Mexico, South Korea, New Zealand, Chile, Germany and Austria, met everywhere with wild acclaim. All told, more than 3000 performers participated in one or more of its 22 editions, presenting this dynamic show to 125,000 spectators.

"Gordon's [92-year-old] just one example of what makes *Le Grand Continental* special – it brings together people who would likely never have met, from different places in the world, different histories and vastly different ages (the youngest is only 11). Fusing all of these personalities in dance creates an energy that's quite rare – and even more magical."

— CBC Arts, Toronto, Canada, 2018

"An artistic experience that has an undeniable social, human and collective impact. 210 dancers form a huge breaker, a wave that is sometimes caressing and sometimes wild and boisterous, but always captivating. A veritable feast with energy that is contagious."

— Christian Saint-Pierre, Voir.ca, Montréal, Canada, 2011

Clip of *Le Super Méga continental* (2017)



Sylvain Émard Danse

A major figure in Québec contemporary dance, Sylvain Émard founded his company, Sylvain Émard Danse, in 1990. From small forms to monumental pieces, from immersive installations to films, he explores the territory of human nature through the power of the body, creating some thirty works, presented on four continents.

A sensitive, rigorous, and inventive creator, he navigates with ease between different artistic spheres, as seen notably in his collaboration with Robert Lepage. Recipient of several prestigious distinctions, including the Jean A. Chalmers Award (1996) for his body of work and the Governor General's Performing Arts Award (2026), Sylvain Émard is also a co-founder of Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique.



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**The dancing
body does
not lie,
and truth
is too
rare to
be ignored.**

**S.É
*D***