

Live Art opens closed doors at hotel

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Published November 4, 2015 - 5:33pm

Last Updated November 4, 2015 - 5:43pm

Four choreographers stage pieces in bedrooms to examine relationships, intimacy



The audience for Live Art Productions' presentation of *Rendez-vous à l'hôtel* will watch a series of dance/theatre pas de deux, produced by La 2e Porte à Gauche, in four bedrooms at the ALT Hotel at the Halifax airport Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m., and Sunday, 2 p.m. There is round-trip transport and a variety of viewing, dining, overnighting options at liveartdance.ca. (CLAUDIA CHAN TAK)

Pierre Elliott Trudeau is famous for saying, “There’s no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation.”

Just as his son is sworn in as prime minister, Live Art Productions is inviting its audience into the bedrooms of the Halifax airport ALT Hotel to see intimate pas de deux vignettes about relationships.

The unusual show, *Rendez-vous à l'hôtel* by La 2e Porte à Gauche, is the result of the twinning of four directors and four choreographers. It stems from an idea to work with couples and “let’s look at intimacy,” says choreographer and company co-director Frederick Gravel, “and let’s find a place where there is intimacy, but it is in the middle of nowhere.”

The audience is brought right into the set, which is the hotel bedroom.

“The audience likes to have a feeling of getting into someone’s space. It’s exciting because of the proximity of the performers.

“You enter a room and it’s a totally different atmosphere, and depending on which room you see first in your night, it’ll change your experience.”

The pieces, spread over four bedrooms, tackle relationships and challenge notions of dance-theatre, gender clichés and intimacy.

Gravel’s own dance and theatre piece for two men is like a scene from a David Lynch movie, he says.

“It could be a horror movie, but we don’t know what to be afraid of.

“You don’t know exactly where the characters are from or what are their objectives. You see something hard is going on, and we can take it in different ways.

“We see not a fight but a struggle between the two guys, and we don’t know what it’s from. They both take the power over the other one in the piece.”

He worked with two actors. One is short and one is tall. One is old and one is young.

“You don’t know what their relation is. Are they father and son, or are they lovers? It’s really physical but really minimal. It’s about postures and attitudes. It’s not really dancey, but it’s really choreographic.”

Gravel, whose mother was a dance teacher, started dancing at three and seriously studying dance at 20.

He is having a whirlwind fall. He is on tour with his 2013 collaboration with author Etienne Lepage for *Ainsi parlait*, premieres a solo work in Montreal next week and is working on a project in Montreal teaming young and older dancer-choreographers.

Also a musician and lighting designer, Gravel is co-director of *La 2e Porte a Gauche*, started in 2003 and known for its risk taking. He likes to break down dance-music-theatre barriers and fuses elements from rock and performance art into his work.

“I like to throw myself in different positions and ranges of expression.”

Created with support from Group Germain Hotels, *Rendez-vous a l’hotel* is embarking on a tour that will see performances in Calgary and Ottawa.

RENDEZ-VOUS

La 2e Porte a Gauche presents *Rendez-vous a l’hotel*, a series of dance-theatre pas de deux staged in four bedrooms at the Alt Hotel at Halifax Stanfield International Airport.

The shows are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Performed for small groups during a series of brief encounters in four bedrooms at the hotel, the who’s who from Montreal’s dance theatre underworld brings into focus what’s happening behind closed doors.

In addition to the show, you can create a personalized rendezvous by choosing from the following options: \$5 round-trip transportation (same day return); \$6 beer or wine available during the show; \$99 plus taxes, stay the night in the hotel; \$20 Sunday brunch, served between 10 a.m. and noon.

Call [Live Art Dance \(http://liveartdance.ca/event/la-2e-porte-a-gauche/\)](http://liveartdance.ca/event/la-2e-porte-a-gauche/) at 902-420-0003 to reserve.

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