



PRESS RELEASE
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The CINARS Biennale 2016: growth in participation for the 17th edition

Montreal, November 21, 2016 - The 17th CINARS Biennale was abundant in performances and activities. **Held from November 14th to 19th**, over 1,500 professionals from **40 countries** including **369 presenters**, 331 exhibitors, 256 observers and 621 artists got together to discover **more than 190 performances**, to take part in conferences and discuss their practices. The CINARS Biennale maintained the momentum of the 2014 edition by increasing the participation rate, particularly in the number of presenters.

The official program performances achieved great success and many touring opportunities, **especially in Asia**, are already in negotiation. The numerous OFF-CINARS performances also reached a remarkable participation rate with over **1,100 reserved tickets** throughout the week and many companies have already received offers.

AWARDS CEREMONY:

- Tribute Award:



During the Gala Dinner, the CINARS Biennale paid tribute to **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, one of his generation's most important ambassadors of classical music. One of the most sought-after conductors in the world, Yannick Nézet-Séguin revives different classical music and opera traditions with precision and outstanding energy. **Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Orchestre Métropolitain since 2000**, he is also **Music Director of the Philadelphia Orchestra since September 2012** and of the **Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra since 2008**. In 2020–2021, he'll become the third **Musical Director of the prestigious New York Metropolitan Opera**. His contagious enthusiasm inspires exceptional performers from around the globe and renews the musical experience and lyric art in the most recognized houses like the Milan Scala, the Royal Opera House of London and Carnegie Hall in New York.

Because of his busy schedule and many trips, Maestro Yannick Nézet-Séguin was unable to attend the Gala Dinner, he did produce a video to convey his gratitude to the participants of the CINARS Biennale. In the video he expressed how touched he was to receive the award and to be recognized alongside past recipients such as **Robert Lepage, Suzanne Lebeau and Margie Gillis**. Regarding the CINARS Biennale he also mentioned that "This event is a very important launching pad for all of Canada's artistic organizations" and that "We're lucky in Montreal, Québec and Canada, to have extremely creative artists, to have a personality and a very distinct vision than elsewhere in the world."

- **The CALQ Award for Best International Tour** is presented to a Québec organization that set itself apart with the exceptional quality of a tour outside of Québec. Given by Anne-Marie Jean, CEO of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the \$10,000 award was given to **La Troupe DuBunker** and their show *Le NoShow*. The comedian Francesca Bàrcenas, who's part of the

cast, gave a very touching speech in which she dedicated the award to the 76 Parisian spectators who attended the performance following the terrorist attacks of November 2015.

- **The Award for Best International Presenter** is presented by the **Canadian Arts Council** to the programmer of a venue or festival that has contributed the most in raising the profile of artists and artistic companies from Canada and abroad. Given by Guylaine Normandin, the Theatre Section Director at the CAC, the award was accompanied by a grant of \$10,000 with the aim of encouraging the hosting and promotion of a Canadian show in the next two years. The award was given to **Suzanne Walker** of **Sadler's Wells** (United Kingdom) who highlighted the quality of Canadian creations and the substantial investments in the arts by the standing government.

- **The National Arts Centre Award** honors exceptional achievement in fostering the touring of live performance arts in Canada. The \$2,500 award, accompanied by a porcelain sculpture by Paula Murray, was given by Cathy Levy, Executive Producer Dance at the NAC, to **Paul Tanguay**. He has contributed to the international rise of several Québec artists such as La La La Human Steps, Compagnie Marie Chouinard, RUBBERBANDance and O Vertigo.

- **The Achievement Award** is conferred by CINARS to a person who greatly contributed to raising the profile of the performing arts abroad. The award, granted by Alain Paré, Vice-President, Executive Director and Founder of CINARS, to **Menno Plukker**, Director of the Menno Plukker Theatre Agent Inc. In his speech, M. Plukker dedicated his award to three fortunate encounters at his arrival in Québec, which allowed him to internationally represent great local artists.

For more information: www.cinars.org.

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