



# DANCE VICTORIA

THE WORLD'S BEST DANCE

111-2750 Quadra Street,  
Victoria BC Canada V8T 4E8

**DanceVictoria.com**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 20, 2017

**We're Going Gaga to Celebrate Dance Victoria's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:  
Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal  
Royal Theatre, April 7 + 8, 2017, 7:30 pm**

VICTORIA, B.C. – Dance Victoria is going Gaga to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season. We're not referring to the pop star Lady Gaga. We're referencing Mr. Gaga: Ohad Naharin, the choreographer of *Minus One*, which will be performed by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal on April 7 and April 8, 2017 at the Royal Theatre. Naharin earned the title Mr. Gaga for his unique dance language that is sought after by choreographers and dance artists alike.

2017 is the 25th Anniversary of Ohad Naharin's appointment as Artistic Director of Israel's Batsheva Dance Company, a tenure that has brought the company international acclaim and has confirmed Tel Aviv as one of the most important dance centres. It's also the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dance Victoria bringing the *World's Best Dance* to Victoria.

Ohad Naharin is considered one of the world's leading contemporary choreographers. *Minus One* is a homage to dance and dancers, and invites the artfully versatile dancers of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal to abandon themselves joyously to the dance, becoming both interpreters and inventors of movement. To a propulsive soundtrack, they reveal their individual idiosyncrasies in solo and group works pieces.

For *Minus One*, Naharin draws on seven previous works to create this homage to dance and dancers. Edgy, theatrical and witty, *Minus One* incorporates autobiographical recordings of the dancers ranging from serious to hilarious, and exposes the performers as real people in all their idiosyncrasies. Adhering to the Gaga technique, Naharin tries to capture the instinctual motions of the dancers, asking them to move with their internal sensations, rather than reacting to their reflections in a mirror. To train dancers in the Gaga method, he covers all mirrors, which are ubiquitous in dance studios. The practice is central to his choreography, he says, because Gaga requires dancers to listen to the scope of their sensations while still staying connected to the outside world.

As Naharin explains, "*I've learned that listening to the body is a lot more meaningful than telling it what to do.*" (Dance Magazine)

Join us for a free, pre-show chat at 6:45 pm in the West (Blanshard Street) Lobby of The Royal prior to both performances.

**Tickets:** Single tickets begin at \$29. Learn about Pay Your Age (12-29 yrs.) and Night Moves (30-45 yrs.) [ticket options](#).



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### **Media Materials**

Images with photo credits: [DanceVictoria.com/media](http://DanceVictoria.com/media). Please credit all photos. Password: media-dance-victoria

Videos for Les Grands Ballets de Canadiens: <https://vimeo.com/dancevictoria>

### **Related Community Events**

Cinecenta (3800 Finnerty Road, Student Union Building, University of Victoria) is showing the documentary, *Mr. Gaga: Into the mind of Ohad Naharin* from March 26 to 28. Filmed over a period of eight years, director Tomer Heymann mixes intimate rehearsal footage with an extensive unseen archive and breathtaking dance sequences. Check Cinecenta (<http://www.cinecenta.com>) for specific show times.

### **About Dance Victoria**

Now in its 20<sup>th</sup> season, Dance Victoria brings the World's Best Dance to the Royal Theatre and supports the development of new dance for the international stage from its studios in Quadra Village. Dance Victoria is a non-profit charitable society. [DanceVictoria.com](http://DanceVictoria.com)