

23 ANS
ACCÈS ASIE.COM

FESTIVAL ACCÈS ASIE

MAY 1»27 2018

VISUAL ARTS CULINARY ARTS DANCE CONFERENCE MUSIC NEW MEDIAS LITERATURE



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

SOPHIA'S RESURRECTION

Montreal, March 1st, 2018

Multidisciplinary performance

Thursday, May 17th, 2018
7:30pm

Maison de la culture Ahuntsic
10300 Lajeunesse (1st floor)

Henri-Bourassa Metro

Free pass available Tuesday, May 1st,
from 6pm at the maison de la
culture Ahuntsic or online (\$2 fee) :
goo.gl/DA48Rr

WORKSHOP WITH THE ARTIST

Sunday, May 20th, 2018
3:30pm

Maison de la culture Ahuntsic
10300 Lajeunesse (1st floor)

Henri-Bourassa Metro

Free admission
Reservation required
(514) 298-0757
info@accesasie.com



The maison de la culture Ahuntsic and Festival Accès Asie are pleased to present *Sophia's Resurrection*, a compelling and powerful story about a woman's life cycle expressed through dance, on Thursday, May 17th, at 7:30pm at the maison de la culture Ahuntsic.

Sophia's journey begins in India, born as the unwanted "girl child" in a conservative Hindu family. Of mixed descent, her physical appearance was always an obstacle in getting ahead in life. Escaping arranged marriages and a life of uncertainty, Sophia was packed up and sent to Canada. Sophia has faced racism, violence, and abuse which made her fiercely fight for her identity and her place in this world.

Sophia's Resurrection traces back the journey of an immigrant woman that faces great adversity, and through her life cycle: death, resurrection and transformation, she finds her place. Sophia, meaning "wisdom" in Greek, is about the inner wisdom and strength of the human spirit. Her story follows the trajectories that characterises the lives of many people.

Through multiple dance pieces highlighting the different stages of Sophia's life, the dancer, Amrita Choudhury, infuses various styles of dance, music, and spoken word, to offer a passionate and heart felt performance of *Sophia's Resurrection*, accompanied by Mary St-Amand Williamson, choreographer and performer, and Norman Achneepineskum, singer and drum carrier.

In addition to the performance, you are invited to plunge into this universe and participate in the Indian dance workshop, *Expressions & Stories in Motion*, where you will discover the basics of Indian classical and modern dance fusion. This free workshop will be animated by Amrita Choudhury on Sunday, May 20th, at 3:30pm at maison de la Culture Ahuntsic. This workshop is open to all, 12 years and up.

In collaboration with:
maison DE LA culture
AHUNTSIC
CARTIERVILLE



© Lisa Hatchez



© Aurore B. Pictures



©MAI (Montréal, Arts Interculturels)

Amrita Choudhury – Choreographer & Performer

Amrita Choudhury specialized her cultural research in Indian Classical, Folklorique, Tribal & Modern Indian dance. She also trained in Irish step dancing, flamenco, Latin, Oriental, Polynesian, and African dance traditions. Amrita has worked with First Nations, European & North American artists, to create bridges between artistic expression and choreography. She has collaborated with various artistic and cultural organizations like Les Grands Ballet Canadiens & The Banff Centre. Her choreographic works have been presented internationally in North & South America, Europe & in Asia, using dance as a powerful tool for inter-cultural dialogue. Amrita's work also highlights socio-political and spiritual aspects focused on giving voice to marginalized groups, human rights & women's issues. On top of offering lectures/talks, Amrita uses dance as a therapeutic tool and works in hospitals, health institutions, and for medical professionals. Amrita has also graduated in Anthropology and dedicated her research to Anthropology and Dance. She brings 30 years of international experience of performing, choreography & teaching. (www.ananda-amrita.com)

Mary St-Amand Williamson – Choreographer & Performer

Mary St-Amand Williamson has a long history working as an actor, dancer, choreographer, performer, photographer, and sound designer within a multitude of mostly collaborative, co-authored projects. Her solo exhibitions, performances, and photography have been shown and published in Chicago, Guelph, New York, and Toronto. Her previous choreographic work — specifically with Zohar Melinek and supported by the Canada Council & CALQ — was presented in Berlin, Montreal as well as Paris and focused on violence and oppression in relation to national, cultural and gender-based conflict. She has recently worked with visual artists Bettina Hoffmann, Chun Hua Catherine Dong, Ray Lavers and Manuel Matthieu and is currently collaborating with choreographer Kim-Sanh Châu, and artists Chloë Lum and Yannick Desranleau.

Norman Achneepineskum – Singer & Drum Carrier

Norman Achneepineskum is Anishinaabe and grew up on the Pays Plat Reserve near Thunder Bay, Ontario. Born of a Cree mother and an Ojibway father, he is grateful for his parents' teachings regarding the important values of life, by their way of being in harmony with nature and through their Anishinaabe language. Norman moved to the Montreal area in 1992 when he was 24. He is a pow-wow singer and song composer, an artist painter, craftsman, writer, poet, storyteller, and handyman. He is the lead singer and drum carrier for the Buffalo Hat Singers who primarily participate in events in and around the Greater Montreal Area.