



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Publication

A record of participants for the 5 years of Hit The Floor Gatineau!

Gatineau-Ottawa, March 7, 2018 - More than 3,000 dancers - a record - are gathering at the 5th presentation of Hit The Floor Gatineau to offer some 835 performances in all styles to spectators and to the judges. With over 60 dance schools from all over Quebec and Eastern Ontario, participants will bring the **Casino du Lac Leamy Convention Centre** to life on **March 15 to 18**, by winning the honors of **one of the most important multi-style dance competitions in the world**. In addition to the competition component, Hit The Floor offers its public market offering products and services from the world of dance and its **All-Stars Showcase** (Saturday, March 17, 9 pm) featuring its many special guests, including the famous crew, **Royal Family**, from New Zealand, sensation in the dance industry, making the event a real happening for dance lovers.

A STRONG PRESENCE OF GATINEAU DANCERS!

Several dance schools from Gatineau will participate in the competition: *Atelier de danse Carole Brouard, École de danse Rosanne Philippe, Studio de danse Danielle, Studio de danse FOOTSTEPS* and *Studio de danse MV*. Dance schools from Ontario will also join the competition: *Alex Dance, Elite Dance Worx, Klash studio, Ottawa Dance Academy, Remix Dance, Studio 360* and *The Academy of Dance Arts*. Nearly 700 dancers from Gatineau will participate in the event this year!

THE ALL-STARS SHOWCASE: A WORLD-CLASS SHOW

In addition to the defending champions of the 2017 edition, *The Young Cast* from *District.Mao*, the eight best performances of the competition will have one last opportunity to perform on stage during the prestigious All-Stars Showcase presented by *Tourisme Outaouais* for the ultimate chance to win the grand prize. The winning group will win a cash prize of \$ 1,000 while second and third place will leave with a cash prize of \$ 500 and \$ 250. A special prize will also be awarded by the *Broadway Dance Center* in New York: \$ 1,500 in training scholarships.

Presented Saturday, March 17, starting at 9 pm, the show will feature the New Zealand crew, *Royal Family*, a global phenomenon of dance! The 15 dancers of the crew will offer a world premiere to the spectators of the production. The All-Stars Showcase is now sold out; all tickets flew in just a few hours. In addition to the exclusive number presented during the show, the crew will teach a workshop to all dancers participating in the event.

TWO PANELS OF SPECIALIZED JUDGES

In order to ensure a fair and equitable evaluation of the dancers, two separate panels of judges have been selected by the organization to ensure that each judge will evaluate the routines related to his area of expertise.

The panel of judges specialized in technical dance will be composed of international dancers: Jeffrey Mortensen, of the TV show *So You Think You Can Dance Canada* having also performed for Serena Ryder and the *Cirque du Soleil*, Kate Harpootlian, of the popular show *Dancing with the Stars* having distinguished herself in the prestigious dance company *Shaping Sound*, as well as Vincent-Olivier Noiseux, a Montreal dancer having earned a place among the greatest dancers in Los Angeles dancing for stars such as Ricky Martin, JLo and Alicia Keys.

Equally impressive artists are composing the panel of judges specialized in hip hop dance: Greg Chapkis, renowned choreographer and founder of the professional company *Chapkis Dance Family*, Thien-Ling Truong, member of the *Blueprint Dance Inc* crew, finalists in season 5 of *America's Best Dance Crew* and Xernan Guardiano, a world-renowned artist and director of the *Hip Hop International* competition in the Philippines.

[List of Judges](#)

"The Government of Quebec is proud to support the Gatineau Hit the Floor competition, a key cultural event for Quebec's dance community. This world-class dance event and exceptional showcase for Quebec talent generates major economic and tourism spinoffs for the region", said Mrs. Julie Boulet, Minister of Tourism.

"With more than 3,000 dancers and over 12,000 spectators, the event aims to encourage young people to be more active, to strive for their personal best and to share their passion, while at the same time giving professional athletes the opportunity to display their talent and promote their careers", said Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin, mayor of Gatineau.

ABOUT HIT THE FLOOR

Created by Nicolas Bégin, a professional dancer and entrepreneur, Hit The Floor is the reference in Quebec and Canada for multistyle dance events. The mission of the event; contribute to the development of the dance community worldwide. Since its creation in 2011, Hit The Floor has collaborated with more than 10 countries thanks to the participation of internationally renowned artists and the involvement of the dancers of the competition. Hit The Floor also welcomed **more than 125,000 spectators** and **30,000 dancers** from **863 dance schools**, which featured **nearly 8,000 routines** during the competitions. Hit The Floor is now proudly considered as a world-class dance event followed by thousands of faithful followers around the world: **more than 520,000 subscribers on its Facebook page**, **more than 120,000 subscribers on its Instagram feed** and **more than 15 million views on its YouTube channel**.

**An event for the whole family! Tickets available on site:
\$ 20 to access competitions during 4 full days!**

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