



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DanceHouse Opens 2026/27 Season with Vancouver Premiere of Compagnie Catherine Gaudet's Electrifying *ODE*

***Quebec-based company returns to DanceHouse with a haunting and hypnotic
exploration of the personal costs of performative positivity***

Vancouver, BC — DanceHouse opens its 2026/27 season with Compagnie Catherine Gaudet's latest contemporary dance work, ***ODE***, on stage **October 23 & 24** at 8pm at the **Vancouver Playhouse**. Choreographed by the company's Artistic Director, **Catherine Gaudet**, the hour-long work—part pop-rock concert, part ritualistic ceremony—channels the industrial happiness complex into a stripped-down exhortation on group-think conformity and cultural collapse, ultimately revealing a fragile blade of hope under the burden of collective pretense.

"*ODE* begins with something wonderfully simple—a group of people coming together around the idea of love—and gradually transforms into something exhilarating, strange, and unsettling," says Jim Smith, Artistic and Executive Director of DanceHouse. "Eleven performers move and chant with extraordinary precision and endurance, and I found myself transported somewhere between a dance work, a rock concert, and a ritual. What stays with me long after is the tension between the desire to belong and the cost of surrendering yourself to the group."

Following Gaudet's captivating performance of *Les jolies chose (The Pretty Things)*, presented by DanceHouse in 2024, *ODE* channels our capitalistic society's cult-like pressure to perform relentless positivity at all costs, drawing from therapy-speak, self-help books, and new-age TED talks. The dancers move in lockstep formation, chanting the word "love" in rhythmic unison. They step-touch laterally while sliding their forearms, reaching up with outstretched hands, and swaying their torsos—invoking the precision of an aerobics class and spirituality of a ritualistic procession.

But under the harmonious pretense, Gaudet reveals a more sinister reality as "the innocence of the initial tableau unfolds into an electrifying and hallucinogenic universe" (*BroadwayWorld Montréal*). The performers' engineered cohesion cannot hold forever—voices crack, bodies falter, and the collective chanting turns ragged. Exhaustion from the brutalizing force of obedience and orthodoxy is inescapable, and yet from this disintegration emerges a sliver of hope for a new path forward.

Winner of the 2022 Grand Prix de la danse de Montréal, Catherine Gaudet has established a reputation as a choreographer with a strong, distinctive style, drawing on themes of psyche, identity, and the body. With razor-sharp commentary on social conventions, Gaudet uses micro-movements and rhythmic expressions to reveal emotions and sensations we try to hide.

ODE premiered to a sold-out crowd at the 2024 edition of Montréal's Festival TransAmériques (FTA), and now makes its Western Canadian debut in Calgary on October 21, followed by Vancouver on October 23 & 24. DanceHouse's presentation of *ODE* will feature a pre-show talk at 7:15pm each evening, as well as a post-show Reception in the Salon, following Friday's

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performance.

For tickets and further information, visit: dancehouse.ca

About DanceHouse (dancehouse.ca)

DanceHouse connects Vancouver audiences, and the local arts community, to the international world of dance by presenting exceptional companies that are recognized for their excellence, innovation, and international reputation. Since 2008, DanceHouse has presented vibrant and inspiring companies from Canada and around the world. In addition to the performances on stage, DanceHouse offers a suite of engagement opportunities and a chance for the general public and local artistic community to engage with the presented artists and their work.

LISTING INFORMATION

**DanceHouse presents Compagnie Catherine Gaudet's
*ODE***

Dates:	October 23 & 24, 2026 at 8pm
Ticket Prices:	From \$45
Address:	Vancouver Playhouse 600 Hamilton St, Vancouver
Box Office:	dancehouse.ca or call 604.801.6225
Website:	dancehouse.ca

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