

Woman in Blue Softly Breathing

Choreographed by
Lina Cruz

.....
A mysterious creature
dwelling in a woman's
moment in time...

BOUCHARDDANSE

Woman in Blue Softly Breathing

Choreographer: **Lina Cruz**

Performer: **Sylvie Bouchard**

Music: **Philippe Noireaut**

Costumes : **Cheryl Lalonde**

Lighting Design: **Gabriel Cropley**

The creation of ***Woman in Blue Softly Breathing*** was co-produced by **BoucharDanse** and **Fila 13**.

Lina Cruz speaks about her inspiration for this work:

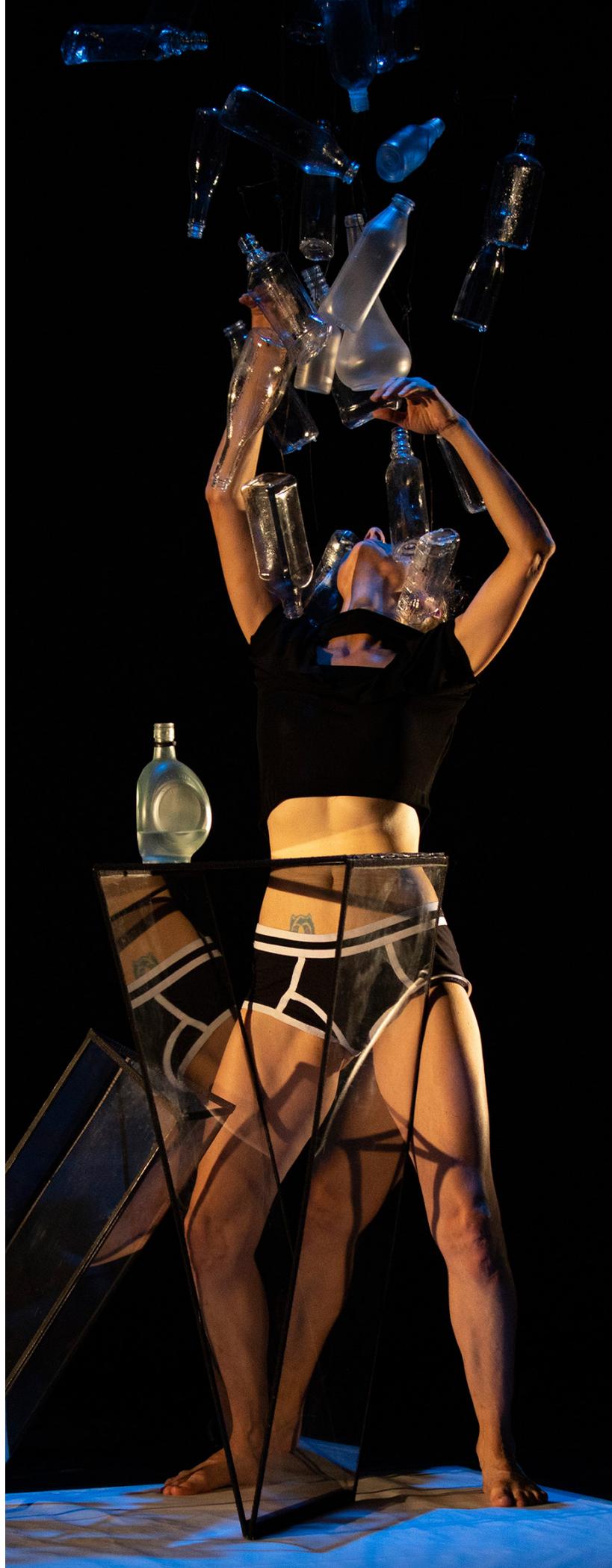
“This solo is partly inspired by Picasso’s painting *La buveuse assoupie* (meaning to me something like The Mellowed Down Drinker), but its given English title is: The Absinthe Drinker. In 1994, I had the wondrous opportunity of visiting the Paul Klee Museum in Bern, Switzerland. That in itself was quite a treat, but what I was not expecting was to find myself in front of a Picasso... blue period... Yes, there she was this woman in blue, magnificent, and I was immensely moved... Even though the theme of the painting hints at angle of sorrow or malheur, I was struck by the abandonment, tenderness and wellbeing that the expression of this blue lady conveyed. This choreography does not intend to portray that painting, but rather to allow me to freely dream a fantasy around my memory of the moment when I saw her and what she seemed to say...”

Woman in Blue Softly Breathing premiered at the Winchester Street Theatre, in Toronto, on October 10th, 2019.



[Watch](#) the short video

[Watch](#) the entire video





*“What a pleasure to see a dancer so masterfully delivering a movement vocabulary that evokes both pain and radiance. I will long remember her deconstruction, with almost surgical precision, of a figure embodying toxic masculinity in *Woman in Blue Softly Breathing*: her patched “man” is an object of fascination. In a time when ageism is raging in the arts community, I would like to say that we are truly fortunate to have such a great talent of cutting edge maturity in our community: Sylvie Bouchard is a treasure to cherish.”*

Joël Bedows, Artistic Director
Le Théâtre français de Toronto



The project

Woman in Blue Softly Breathing is part of a solo and duo commissioning project – intimate encounters created by choreographers with whom Sylvie Bouchard wanted to journey creatively, exploring new territories and enabling all collaborators to discover together.

This commissioning project is comprised of 30 minutes long solos and duos that can be paired up or presented individually.

Solos:

- ***Woman in Blue Softly Breathing***
Choreographed by Lina Cruz and performed by Sylvie Bouchard
- ***Cross My Heart and Hope***
Choreographed by Denise Fujiwara and performed by Sylvie Bouchard

Duo:

- ***at yes of day***
Choreographed by Yvonne Coutts and performed by Marc Boivin and Sylvie Bouchard

Coming in 2023:

- ***Bob's Last Request!***
A duet created by Tedd Robinson and performed by Gerry Trentham and Sylvie Bouchard
- ***Ho m a ge***
A solo created and performed by Sylvie Bouchard



Biographies



Sylvie Bouchard is originally from Montréal, where she began her dance training. She moved to Toronto to study at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre and subsequently joined the Company in 1985. Sylvie also performed with Fujiwara Dance Inventions, pounds per square inch, Kaeja D'dance, Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers and Dancemakers, and has worked with many choreographers including Susie Burpee, Tedd Robinson, Marie-Josée Chartier, Sashar Zarif, Roger Sinha, Yvonne Coutts and Lina Cruz. Throughout her artistic career, Bouchard has continued to forge original concepts in both the creation and the presentation of dance. In 1993, she created **Dusk Dances**, a festival that presents dance in public parks. In 1997 she formed the Company **CORPUS** with artistic partner David Danzon. Between 1997 and 2008, she co-created eight works with Danzon that toured internationally in street theatre festivals, on stage and in schools. In 2008, Sylvie Bouchard forms **BoucharDanse**, a company that serves as an umbrella for her artistic endeavors. Bouchard also co-created and performed in the popular series Four Square at Tree House TV and is the recipient of the 2009 KM Hunter Artists Award in Dance.



Originally from Colombia, Montreal choreographer **Lina Cruz** explores imaginative choreographies and a detailed body language. A second-place award winner in the 1998 choreographic competition of the St-Sauveur Arts Festival (Quebec), Cruz conveys a surreal landscape in which her intriguing codes of expression and movement quality design on stage an appealing fusion of styles. After 15 years as an independent choreographer, Lina Cruz founded the company **Fila 13 Productions** in 2003. Fila 13's specific artistic approach was warmly celebrated in Toronto in 2012 when **Soupe du jour** received the prestigious Dora Mavor Moore Award in two categories: Lina Cruz for Outstanding Choreography and Philippe Noireaut for Outstanding Sound Design/Composition. The last few years have brought Lina Cruz to diverse artistically enriching projects. Independent artists across Canada as well as companies and institutions, such as, Toronto Dance Theatre, the Banff Centre for the Arts, L'École de danse contemporaine de Montréal and l'École de danse de Québec, have sought out her services as choreographer and teacher.





The company

BoucharDanse is a Canadian contemporary dance company based in Toronto and conceived in 2009 by choreographer / performer Sylvie Bouchard, who is originally from Montréal. It is an incubator of new artistic concepts and projects that are developed through dynamic collaborations, an intrinsic value of the company. The company is devoted to artistic research, creation and presentation and is committed to foster innovative concepts and projects that intersect with a diversity of art forms. **BoucharDanse** is guided by a desire to make dance inviting to both experienced and novice audiences, proposing unique kinesthetic experiences both in theatre venues and in non-traditional spaces. Our repertoire includes in-theatre performances, site-specific performances, multi-art installations and smaller scale works (solos and duets) for which Sylvie acts as an interpreter or a choreographer, sometimes both.

The choreographic works of Sylvie Bouchard endeavors to address issues and struggles surrounding mental health and journeys through trauma. This reflects her deep commitment and desire to speak about mental health, to unpack stories of resilience, and through dance, to engage the public in this conversation.

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All photos by **John Lauener**.

