

**RUBBERBAND**  
VICTOR QUIJADA

**VIC'S  
MIX**



**ALL UPDATED DETAILS  
ON OUR WEBSITE**

***Vic's Mix* is a RUBBERBAND production supported by Festival international DansEncore, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Conseil des arts de Montréal, and the Ontario Arts Council.**

**RUBBERBAND**

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL  
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Conseil  
des arts  
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du Québec



Conseil des Arts  
du Canada

Canada Council  
for the Arts

# CREDITS

**Duration:** 75 minutes

**Year of Production:** 2016

**Choreography:** Victor Quijada

**Casting 2022-2023 :** Zao Dinel, Daniela Jezerinac, Emma-Lynn Mackay-Ronacher, Jovick Pavajeau-Orostegui, Brontë Poiré-Prest, Rion Taylor, Wyeth Walker

**Original Casting:** Jean Bui, Amara Barner, Lavinia Vago, Sydney McManus, Sovann Rochon Prom-Tep, Paco Ziel, Zack Tang

**Lighting design :** Yan Lee Chan

**Music composition:** Jasper Gahunia

**Costume design:** Camille Thibault-Bédard

**Executive Director:** Fannie Bellefeuille

**Production and Tour Manager:** Diana Catalina Cárdenas

**Communications Director:** Salomé Boniface

**Repertory music: various composers**

## ACT 1

***Secret Service*** – Sergei Prokofiev

***Meditations on the Gift*** – Jasper Gahunia

***sHip sHop Shape Shifting*** – J.S Bach

***Mi Verano*** – Antonio Vivaldi

***Before Back Then*** – Marin Marais

***The Traviattle*** – Guiseppe Verdi

## ACT 2

***Dr Ib Erif*** – Igor Stravinsky

***Soft Watching the First Explosion*** – Antonio Vivaldi

***Second Coming*** (extrait) – Jasper Gahunia (avec Beethoven, Paganini, Bach)

***Punto Ciego*** (extrait) – Jasper Gahunia

# TOUR AGENTS

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Photo © Michael Slobodian





# VIC'S MIX

With both **humorous** and **serious** moments, *Vic's Mix* is a kind of “**best of**” spanning the immense creative territory explored by Victor Quijada, extracting jewels from the choreographer's repertoire.

In a remix of his own work, orchestrating the clash between **urban pop and classical composition**, Quijada goes further in his experiments defying notions of theatricality and audience expectations, while making sure that each body gravitating onstage in the highly athletic segments exemplifies the **RUBBERBAND Method**.

Photo © Bill Hebert



# VICTOR QUIJADA

Since 2002, **Victor Quijada** and **RUBBERBAND** have not only redefined break dance codes within an institutional context and enlivened the Quebec dance scene, but have opened the way for new creators fascinated by this dance form. Armed with a technique he conceived for dancers, the **RUBBERBAND Method** and some 40 creations and collaborations in Canada and abroad behind him, Victor Quijada has always continued to evolve and innovate throughout his prolific career.

Born and raised in **Los Angeles**, the child of Mexican parents, Victor first danced in the b-boying circles and hip-hop clubs of his native city. He performed with Rudy Perez from 1994 to 1996, then moved to New York City to join THARP! After spending three years with that company and following a stint with Ballets Tech, in 2000 he came to Montreal to join Les Grands Ballets canadiens.

In 2002, he founded RUBBERBAND, throwing himself into deconstructing the choreographic principles he had learned by blending them with the raw ideology of his street dance origins. His creations – numerous short works and 14 full-length productions – are distinguished by a powerful theatricality, the energy of improvisation, and certain codes of film language, the whole sculpted with an incomparable precision of movement.



Photo © David Wong



Photo © Marie-Noëlle Pilon

Victor Quijada has created his own technique, the **RUBBERBAND Method**, with an electrifying vocabulary combining the energy of hip-hop, the refinement of classical ballet and the angular work of contemporary dance.

He has been teaching the RUBBERBAND Method worldwide for more than twenty years, through various workshops and courses for numerous companies, dance institutions and universities, as well as on a recurring basis: the **Winter Intensive**, the company's annual course, is a fine example.

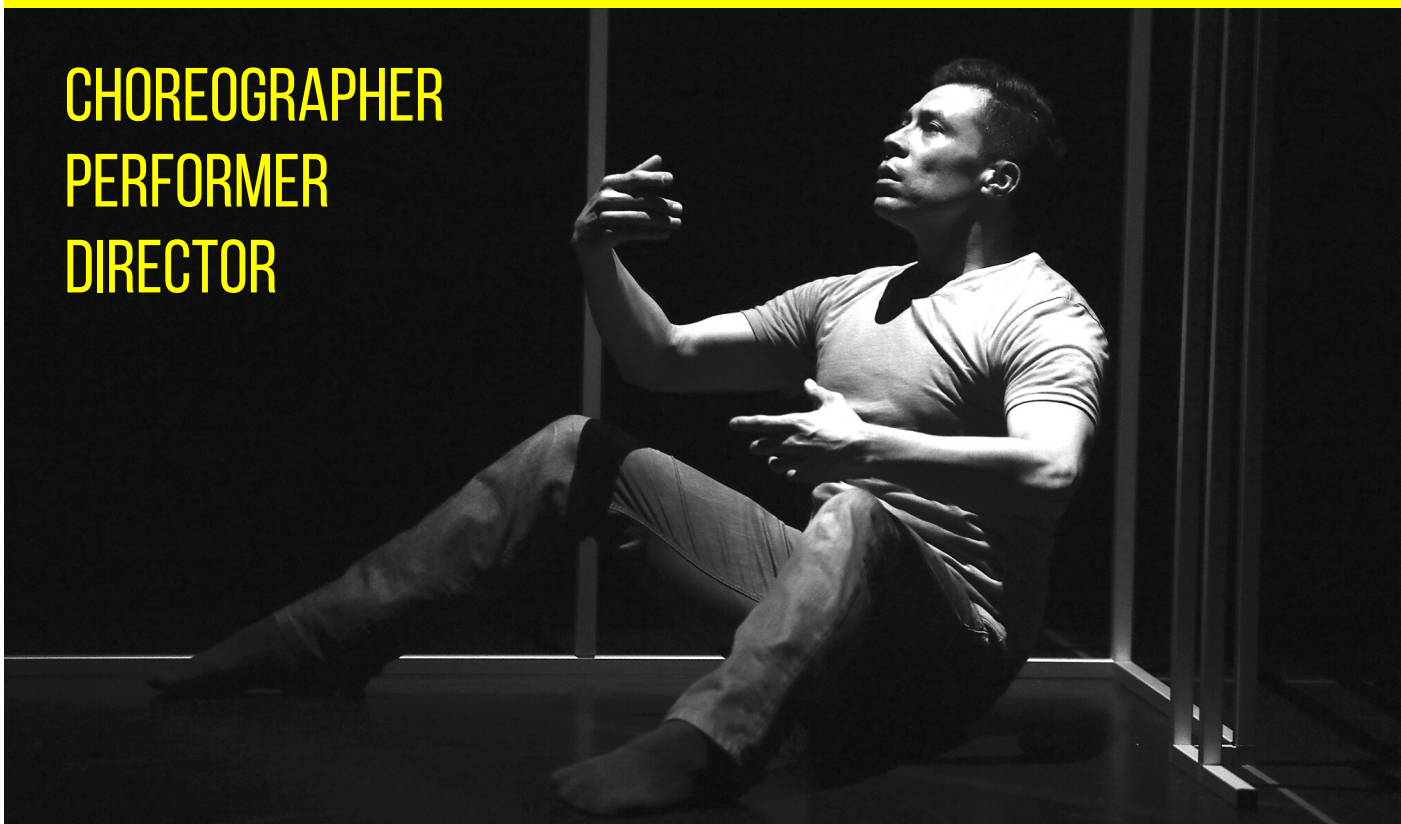
Photo © Paolo Santos





Photo © Bill Hebert (Victor Quijada)

# CHOREOGRAPHER PERFORMER DIRECTOR



As a guest choreographer, he has created new works for **circus** and **dance** companies. He has worked on several occasions with **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**, **Pacific Northwest ballet** and **Scottish Dance Theatre**.

In terms of peer recognition, Quijada has been artist-in-residence at **Usine C** (2004) and **Place des Arts** (2007-2011), and has won numerous awards.

He is the recipient, among others, of the **National Dance Award's Best Modern Repertory** (2003, USA), the **Bonnie Bird North American Award** (2003, England), the **Peter Darrell Choreography Award** (2003, England), the **Canadian Dance Assembly's International Outreach Award** (2012, Canada) and **two Princess Grace Foundation-USA awards** (Choreography Fellowship, 2010; Work in Progress Residency, 2016).

He was invited to join the faculty of **USC Kaufman** in California, alongside William Forsythe from 2016 to 2020. A second PGFA was awarded to him in 2016, in the form of a creative residency at the **Baryshnikov Arts Center** in New York.

In December 2017, Victor Quijada received the **Prix de la danse de Montréal - Prix de la diversité culturelle**, and in 2019 he is one of four finalists for the **Prix Charles-Biddle**, **instigated** by Culture pour tous and the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Inclusion (MIFI).

# PERFORMERS



## EMMA-LYNN MACKAY-RONACHER

Emma-Lynn Mackay-Ronacher resides from small town Kemptville, Ontario, where she started dancing at a local studio before moving to Montreal at the age of 14, to continue her training at L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec. She graduated at the age of 19, after five years in the professional program where she trained in classical and contemporary dance. Upon graduation, Emma began freelancing for renowned choreographers and companies, such as Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, Anne Plamondon Productions, Gioconda Barbuto and Veronique Giasson, among others. Emma-Lynn joined RUBBERBAND in 2021.



## JOVICK PAVAJEAU-OROSTEGUI

Jovick Pavajeau-Orostegui was born in Miami, Florida, and began his formal dance training in Bogotá, Colombia, at the age of 15 under the direction of Jaime Otálora. Later, he attended George Mason University where he received the Kidd/Stearns Dance Talent Scholarship and graduated with a BFA in Dance in 2020. He has attended workshops with RUBBERBAND, VIM VIGOR, David Dorfman Dance and Springboard Danse Montreal under the direction of Alexandra Wells - where he performed work by Lior Lazarof and Johannes Wieland. After graduating in 2020, Jovick moved to New York City where he was an apprentice with David Dorfman Dance. In his time in NYC, he also performed with VIM VIGOR and collaborated with other New York based artists such as Jordan Demetrius Lloyd, Robert Rubama, and Cameron McKinney of Kizuna Dance. Jovick relocated to Montreal in 2021 to join RUBBERBAND.



## WYETH WALKER

Wyeth Walker grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where he began his training under Denise Wall. This led him to attend the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance, where he was able to study with and perform work by Peter Chu, Barak Marshall, Jermaine Spivey, and William Forsythe, among others. After graduating in 2022, Wyeth attended Springboard Danse Montreal. He joined RUBBERBAND in 2022.



## RION TAYLOR

Rion Taylor established his roots in dance through the hip-hop culture of Newcastle upon Tyne, England. Nurtured by Bad Taste Cru, he joined Battalions Crew in 2013 and competed throughout the UK and Europe. Training under Akram Khan with the National Youth Dance Company inspired him to continue his exploration at London Contemporary Dance School, where he worked with Hofesh Shechter, Dane Hurst, and Punch Drunk, among other artists. At the 2017 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, he performed with the James Cousins Company in Rosalind, which won an award for Best Moments of the Festival. Moving to Montreal in 2018 to work with RUBBERBAND, he has continued to represent the company performing throughout Canada, USA and internationally, as well as recently taking on the role of Artistic Coordinator. Rion has been working closely with Jessica Muszynski since 2020, establishing himself alongside the emerging choreographer as a dancer, performing in festivals within Québec.



## DANIELA JEZERINAC

Daniela Jezerinac was born in Mississauga, Ontario, where she began her dance training at a local studio. While continuing to pursue her artistic career at Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre, she performed several works by José Limón, Colin Connor, and Robert Glumbek. In the fall of 2019, she completed her BFA in Dance at SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance, where she had the honour of performing pieces choreographed by Kevin Wynn, Alexandra Beller, and Hannah Garner. Daniela joined RUBBERBAND in 2018.



# PERFORMERS



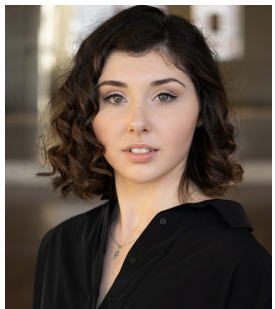
## BRONTË POIRÉ-PREST

Brontë Poiré-Prest hails from Montreal. She fell in love with the art of movement at L'École de danse contemporaine de Montréal, where she had the good fortune to collaborate with renowned choreographers Angélique Willkie, Hélène Blackburn, and Alan Lake, among others. After graduating, she was invited to work at several well-established companies in Montreal, including Van Grimde Corps Secrets and Le Carré des Lombes, and as a freelancer for Compagnie Marie Chouinard. Brontë joined RUBBERBAND in 2018.



## ZAO DINEL

Born in Montreal, Zao Dinél grew up in a family of six that valued sports as well as art. He was home schooled, allowing him to practice men's artistic gymnastics, swimming and sailing at a competitive level, while studying violin at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal until he was introduced to dance. In 2012, he began his professional training at the École Supérieure de Ballet du Québec and fell in love with dance. Zao is curious, observant and very social. He is full of energy, great enthusiasm and always ready for a challenge, whether it is a new dance style or repertoire he has never experienced. He is driven by three important passions - music, dance and film - and has a strong sense of collaboration. Thus, he finds pleasure in surrounding himself with artists from various disciplines for improvisations or creations. It was during the 2022 edition of Springboard Danse Montréal that Zao was exposed to the repertoire of RUBBERBAND, which he joined in 2022.



## CINDY MATEUS

Cindy Mateus, from Montreal, trained in rhythmic gymnastics, hip-hop, and contemporary dance. She specialized in classical ballet and contemporary dance at L'Académie du Ballet Métropolitain from 2012 to 2018. For two years she was invited to attend the Junior Training Program of the Broadway Dance Center in New York, concentrating on jazz and classical ballet. Among her television appearances, she was one of the top 14 in the second season of the Quebec TV dance program, "Révolution". She discovered RUBBERBAND during the intensive workshop at Domaine Forget and joined the company in 2021.



## JESSICA MUZSYNSKI

Jessica Joy Muzsynski is a Canadian dancer and choreographer originally from Burnaby, B.C., where she trained in ballet at the Richmond Academy of Dance before moving to Calgary in 2012. In May 2019, she earned a BFA in dance from the University of Southern California, performing in excerpts of works by William Forsythe, Crystal Pite, and Víctor Quijada. After graduation, Jessica starred in a music video by the band half-alive, which received over two million views. She danced with Azure Barton & Artists during the creation process of the company's work, Where There's Form. Jessica moved to Montreal to dance with RUBBERBAND in 2019.



## PACO ZIEL

Paco Ziel, born in Mexico City, began his dance training at l'École Supérieure de Ballet du Québec. An early interest in body awareness led him to discover diverse movement approaches such as Gaga, the RUBBERBAND Method, and Feldenkrais, as well as yoga and meditation. In 2014, he founded the multidisciplinary lab, Quantum Collective, whose work was presented twice by Tangente in Montreal. Paco has performed with Montreal-based artists and companies that include Edgar Zendejas, PPS Danse, Anne Plamondon, and Martin Messier. Since 2019, he has co-directed VIAS, a dance company that alternates between Montreal and Mexico City. He is a self-taught filmmaker and photographer with a main focus on the human body, movement, and natural landscapes. Paco has danced with RUBBERBAND since 2015.

# MUSIC IN VIC'S MIX

Discover the biography of **Jasper Gahunia**, composer of the music for this show:

## JASPER GAHUNIA

Jasper Gahunia is a DJ, producer, author, musician and teacher. His career in music began in the mid-1990s, when he became a platinum DJ and took part in several competitions. He won the DMC Toronto three times and became Canadian DMC champion in 1998. During this period, he also shared the ITF (International Turntable Federation) Western Hemisphere Team title with his team, Turnstylez, and, as an individual, won the I.T.F. World Beatjuggling Champion title the following year. Jasper has also graced countless stages around the world as a DJ and keyboardist with Nelly Furtado and k-os. At the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, where he studied piano, Jaz taught the very first *Scratch from Scratch: DJ Fundamentals* course. He also worked with the Canadian Opera Company to produce a series of mini-operas fused with hip-hop beats and scratching, and composed the soundscape for several of RUBBERBAND's works.



Photo © Nevis Gahunia



Photos (left to right) © 1) Bill Hebert. 2) Michael Slobodian. 3) Alexie Restrepo





Founded in Montreal in 2002, **RUBBERBAND** immediately wowed audiences and critics with three creations presented at Espace Tangente over two seasons, while also performing several smaller-scale works in mixed programs and self-produced evenings throughout the city. *Tender Loving Care* and *Hasta La Próxima* were both included in Le Devoir's "Top 5 in Dance for 2002", while *Elastic Perspective* began a 100-performance run in 2003 after winning the RIDEAU Prize at the Vue sur la relève Festival.

During the 2003-2004 season, RUBBERBAND was granted a residency at Usine C to create *Slicing Static*, which was hailed as Best Dance Production of 2004 by the Hour, Montreal's cultural weekly newspaper (now Cult MTL).

In 2005, Anne Plamondon joined RUBBERBAND as Artistic Co Director, assisting Victor Quijada with the company's strategic planning. Another residency at Usine C in 2006 was followed by a four-year stint as artists-in-residence at Place des Arts. During this period, with the support of several partners, four new works were created: *Punto Ciego* and *AV Input/Output* in 2008, *Loan Sharking* in 2009, and *Gravity of Center* in 2011.

In 2013, Quijada created *Empirical Quotient* for six dancers trained in the RUBBERBAND Method. The company then created *Vic's Mix* in 2016, a kind of "Greatest Hits" of Quijada's work. In 2017, as part of the Celebrations of Montreal's 375th Anniversary, the members of the company were joined by thirty students from the École supérieure de ballet du Québec and the École de danse contemporaine de Montréal to dance in the multidisciplinary performance *City Thread* on the Esplanade of the Place des Arts.

In 2018, Victor Quijada directed ten dancers on the immense stage of the Maisonneuve Theater in *Ever So Slightly*.

2020 marked the return of Victor Quijada to the stage as a dancer in *Trenzado*, a piece that raises the question of what it is to be from everywhere and nowhere at the same time.

The company's newest creation, *Reckless Underdog*, propels the company's achievements of the last twenty years to new heights. In a larger-than-life work, thirteen dancers come together in a choreography of three acts. Each part, a piece in itself, draws spectators into a unique, complex world through its distinctive scenography, music, and movement aesthetic.

The company is currently working on a new creation, *Second Chances*, exploring the themes of identity and home featuring excerpts of *Trenzado* and *Commissions Suite*.

## HISTORY OF THE COMPANY



Photos (from left to right) © 1) Bill Hebert (Victor Quijada) 2) Marie-Noële Pilon (Amara Barner)



HISTORY OF THE COMPANY

RUBBERBAND co-produced **six films choreographed by Quijada**, four of which are co-directed by him: *Ever So Slightly*, *Gravity of Center*, *Secret Service* and *Small Explosions That Are Yours to Keep*. *Gravity of Center* won in 2012 “Les Enfants Terribles” and “Air Canada” awards at the Rendez-Vous du Cinéma Québécois festival, as well as awards for Best Experimental Short Film and Best Cinematography in a Canadian Short Film at the CFC Worldwide Short Film Festival, among others. *Hasta La Próxima*, made in 2003, was a finalist in the short film category at the American Choreography Awards. Quijada is also involved in the creation of three music videos for the songs *Man I Used to Be* by k-os, *La Garde* by Alexandre Désilets and *Blue Wonderful* by Elton John.

Now well-established, the company embodies Canadian artistic innovation in the United States, Europe, Mexico and Japan. RUBBERBAND is at the forefront of Montreal's contemporary dance community, and is recognized internationally for its unique vision.

# RUBBERBAND

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