

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Interrogating toxic masculinity and gender stereotypes with comedic humour: Citadel + Compagnie presents the Toronto premiere of Sébastien Provencher's *Children of Chemistry*

Exploring definitions of "manliness" through sports and pop culture, Provencher asks audiences to question hypermasculinity from February 20-22, 2020 at The Citadel

TORONTO, ON – From a fashion show to a football field, from femininity to hyper-masculinity, Montreal-based Sébastien Provencher both confronts and questions the notion of manliness in the Toronto premiere of *Children of Chemistry*, at The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance from February 20-22, 2020.

"Sébastien plays with pop culture and gender expression in this poignant and hilarious interrogation of masculinity," says Citadel + Compagnie Artistic Director, Laurence Lemieux. "I am thrilled to be presenting his work to Toronto audiences at The Citadel."

Having grown up playing sports, Provencher examines how clichés of hyper-masculine athleticism have been built into his own notions of masculinity, particularly, the social and symbolic codes surrounding "maleness" in American football. Through a colourful and comical, yet touching universe, he explores what it is to embrace diversity of gender.

With an exceptional cast of five queer emerging dance artists, Provencher explores bullying and tenderness and toxic masculinity, while providing audiences with permission to question gender stereotypes through this humorous and touching work.



Photo by Vanessa Fortin

High-res photos, a trailer, and bios available on [the media page](#).

Children of Chemistry

Toronto premiere

February 20-22, 2020

Choreographer: Sébastien Provencher

Presented by Citadel + Compagnie through Bright Nights Performing Arts Series

Tickets for Citadel + Compagnie's season are on sale at citadelcie.com.

Performances take place at The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance, located at 304 Parliament Street, Toronto, at Dundas and Parliament.

From a fashion show to a football field, from femininity to hypermasculinity, Children of Chemistry both confronts and questions the notion of manliness. In a repetitive dance with popular and sporting references, Provencher tackles stereotypes of masculinity. Hailed as "poignant performance" this Toronto premiere is a captivating piece that invites audiences to imagine the masculine through a different lens.

Dancers:

Miguel Anguiano

Jean-Benoit Labrecque

Louis-Elyan Martin

Alexandre Morin

Simon Renaud

Lighting designer: Nancy Bussières

Music composition: Hani Debbache

Rehearsal director: Helen Simard

Executive Producer: Lorganisme

"Provencher takes a fresh look at the notion of social identification of the sexes (and) denounces it while sending an optimistic message against a cultural closure of minds still very significant in our time." – DF Danse

About Citadel + Compagnie (citadelcie.com)

Citadel + Compagnie is a dance organization with its home, The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance, embedded within the Regent Park community of downtown Toronto. Through its creation, curation and cultivation of contemporary dance, Citadel + Compagnie's mission is to make a significant and lasting contribution to dance in Canada. The company's vision is for exceptional dance to reach diverse communities and audiences and foster ongoing dialogue between artists and the public.

Led by Artistic Director, Laurence Lemieux, the organization supports the artistic activities of its dance company, its performing arts series, and its training program. At its core, the company commits to the creation and production of innovative and accessible original works of dance, emphasizing the development of new work by resident choreographer James Kudelka and by Laurence Lemieux. Through remount initiatives, the company dedicates itself to the preservation of important Canadian dance work, making available iconic repertoire to a new generation of dancers.

Under Lemieux's leadership, Citadel + Compagnie has had a marked impact on the local community, offering free studio access to key neighbourhood initiatives: Toronto Police Force 51 Division's youth and hip-hop program, the Regent Park School of Music, and Toronto Council Fire's Indigenous dance program, First Fire. These collaborations have built lasting ties within the community, and as a result, The Citadel has become a sought-after safe space for youth to gather and explore their creativity.

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