

Cherry Blossoms invade our space like fire

What is Butoh? Butoh comes from the word *bu* which means "to dance", and *toh* which means "to stamp the earth". Butoh is a form of choreographic expression born in Japan out of the traumatic experience of the nuclear bomb. Though generated from familiarity with death and suffering, this form of expression communicates many different shades of human emotion.

In the Quebec dance community, there is one performer-choreographer who has been particularly influenced by Butoh: Jocelyne Montpetit. She has had, a successful durable career where Japanese and Quebec cultures cross-fertilize.

Cherry Blossoms invade our space like fire proposes to show how the stylistic research of this ageless Quebec dancer transcends traditional and modern forms of performance.

In this 50 minutes performance piece where she has invited Japanese dancer Tomiko Takai (first woman Butoh dancer). Montpetit's commentary helps us understand how the very "matter" of Butoh has shaped her identity. The film also highlights Butoh's quest for "the feminine".

Because Butoh is so strongly based in experience, it can lead us to the discipline and philosophy we so urgently seek.

I intend to deepen our understanding of Butoh through its strong images and subtle emotions. As western societies reassess their values, will Butoh, like Zen, find it's way into our culture?

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