

Sinha Dance  
&  
CanAsian Dance Festival  
present

lōha | thōk



SINHA DANCE CANADIAN TOUR 2004

## ROGER SINHA

*Choreographer, Dancer  
and Artistic Director  
of Sinha Danse*



photo: Michael Stamborian

Montreal-based Sinha Danse was founded by Artistic Director, Roger Sinha in 1991. Born in Britain to parents of Indian and Armenian descent, Sinha developed his company as a vehicle for his distinctive hybrid choreography. His work enriches the vocabulary of contemporary dance by infusing the techniques of Bharata Natyam with the full-bodied movement of modern dance. Compelled by his cultural origins, Sinha creates a dynamic tension between the intimate and the universal, resulting in a contemporary expression of his reality that is passionate, personal and challenging. Selected works by

Roger Sinha include *Thok* (2002), *Loha* (2000), *Le Jardin des Vapeurs* (1997), *Chai* (1997), *From a Crack in the Earth...Light* (1995), and *Burning Skin* (1992).

*Sinha Danse* has performed extensively at major festivals in Canada including the *Canada Dance Festival*, *Montréal en Lumières*, *Dancing on the Edge Festival* and *FIND*. Internationally, Sinha Danse has presented works at the prestigious Place Theatre (London) as part of the *Vivarta Festival of South Asian Performance* and has been showcased at the *Spring Dance Festival* in Utrecht (Holland), *Danse à Lille* (France), *Summer Stage Series* in Central Park (New York) and the *New Directions in Indian Dance festival* in New Delhi.

Roger Sinha's newest work, *Apricot Trees Exist* is a piece for six dancers inspired by *Alphabet*, the book length, celebrated epic poem of Danish experimentalist Inger Christensen. *Apricot Trees Exist* will premiere in October 2004 at *L'Agora de la danse* in Montréal.

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### Sinha Danse Canadian Tour 2004

27 March, 2004  
7:30 PM.

St. Catharines / ON  
Center for the Arts,  
Brock University,  
David S. Howes Theatre,  
500 Glenridge Avenue

Box Office: 905-688-5550, ext. 3257  
[www.arts.brocku.ca](http://www.arts.brocku.ca)

1 - 3 April, 2004  
8:00 PM.

Toronto / ON  
CanAsian Dance Festival  
Betty Oliphant Theatre  
404 Jarvis Street,  
Toronto

Box Office: 416-504-PLAY (7529)  
[www.canasiandancefestival.com](http://www.canasiandancefestival.com)

July, 2004  
8:00 PM.

Vancouver / BC  
Dancing on the Edge Festival  
Firehall Arts Theatre  
(dates and times to be confirmed)

# Loha | thok

**Loha** is a duet performed by Roger Sinha and Natasha Bakht with original live music accompaniment by Ganesh Anandan and Rainer Wiens. *Loha*, which signifies steel, brings us on a journey of storm and peacefulness, embodying the flexible and resistant qualities of the metal as a metaphor for human



Natasha Bakht

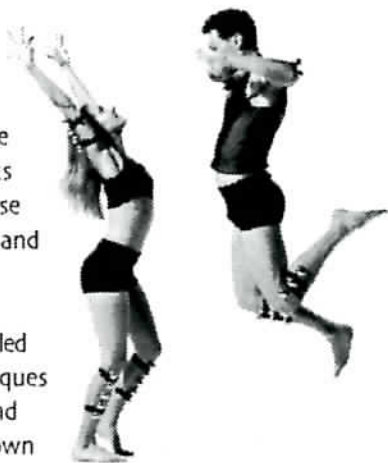
*Loha* premiered at the Canada Dance Festival in June, 2000.

photos: Michael Skarffun

Choreography by Roger Sinha  
in collaboration with  
Natasha Bakht

Choreography by  
Roger Sinha

**Thok** is an explosive quartet that transports our senses to a universe rich in sound, texture and the beauty of gesture. The choreographer deconstructs the controlled and formalized techniques of Bharata Natyam and integrates it into his own personal, explosive style. Metallic bells chime to the swiftness of the dancers, movements oscillate from fluid to fierce, engaging the viewer in an emotional exploration of the profane.



Lucie Vigneault & Tom Casey

*Thok* made its debut at *L'Agora de la danse* in Montreal in 2002.



Tom Casey, Sophie Lavigne & Lucie Vigneault

# ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES

## Natasha Bakht

*Dancer / Collaborator Loha*

Natasha Bakht is an Indian contemporary dancer and choreographer. Natasha trained in Bharata Natyam under **Menaka Thakkar** for 20 years and has worked with choreographers **Joan Phillips**, **Hari Krishnan**, **Wayne McGregor**, **Shobana Jeyasingh** and **Robert Desrosiers**. Her personal choreography includes three solos entitled *Dance If You Must*, *Appropriating Edges* and *Obiter Dictum* which was nominated for a 2003 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Choreography. Loha is her second collaborative work with Roger Sinha.

## Thomas Casey

*Dancer - Thok*

Tom Casey completed a bachelor of arts 'ex honoris' in dance at the *University of Winnipeg*. As a member of *Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers* he traveled to Montréal to remount choreographer **Jean-Pierre Perreault's** classic, *JOE*. In April, 2004 he will return to the cast of *JOE* for the show's 20th anniversary world tour. With *Sinha Danse* Tom is able to explore dance as a mixture of 'meaningful gesture' (as words on a page) and pure movement in the dynamic sense. Tom is grateful to have been actively collaborating with *Sinha Danse* since 1996.

## Sophie Lavigne

*Dancer - Thok*

Sophie Lavigne studied dance at the *Université du Québec à Montréal*, completing her baccalaureate studies in dance education in 1995 and dance interpretation in 1998. Since 1996, she has worked with choreographers **Gaëtan Gingras**, **Ginette Prévost**, **Motaz Kabbani** and she now dances with the **Lynda Gaudreau's Compagnie**. Sophie has been a member of *Sinha Danse* since 1999.

## Magdalena Nowecka

*Dancer - Thok*

Magdalena Nowecka began her formation in contemporary dance at *St-Laurent College* in Montreal and pursued her studies at *les Ateliers de danse moderne de Montréal* before working with *Lucie Gregoire Danse* in 2003. She teaches dance at *L'Ecole Nos voix, nos visages* and is preparing a piece to be shown at *Tangente* in the fall of 2004. She joined *Sinha Danse* in June, 2003.





## Ganesh Anandan

Composer / Musician - Loha

Originally from Bangalore, South India, composer, percussionist and instrument designer Ganesh Anandan has worked with a wide range of artists including dancers Roger Sinha, Hideo Arai (Japan), Motaz Kabbani, Peter Chin, Mariko Tanabe and Lin Snelling. He has performed / recorded with Glen Velez (USA), Ensemble Modern (Germany), Oregon (USA), Ramesh Shotham (India/Germany), Carlo Rizo (Italy / France) and Michel Cusson. His two latest CD releases are entitled *Speaking in Tongues (Ambiances Magnetiques)* and *Imaginarium* (Independent).

## Rainer Wiens

Composer / Musician - Loha

Rainer Wiens is a composer, guitarist, and kalimbaist. He has composed music for dance, theatre and film, and his published works are part of the permanent collection of the *Museum of Modern Art* (NY). He has recorded / performed with NOMA, Steve Lacy, René Lussier, Ganesh Anandan, Jean Derome, Pierre Tanguay, Martin Tetrault and Malcolm Goldstein. Rainer's latest CD *Speaking in Tongues* is available on the *Ambiances Magnetiques* label.

## Sophie Michaud

Rehearsal Director / Assistant Choreographer

Sophie Michaud has been focusing her energies towards her freelance work as an Assistant Choreographer and Rehearsal Director since 1990. She completed a MA in dance at UQAM in 1996. She has collaborated with numerous dance companies and independent choreographers including *Cas Public*, *PPS Danse*, *Mariko Tanabe Danse*, *Bouge de là*, *Mia Maure Danse*, *Kondition Pluriel*, *Manon fait de la danse* and *Corpuscule Danse*. Sophie has been an integral part of *Sinha Danse* since 2001.

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Ganesh Anandan et Rainer Wiens



Photo Denis Mecredi

## LOHA: ARTISTS & COLLABORATORS

(2000)

Choreographer:	Roger Sinha in collaboration with Natasha Bakht
Dancers:	Roger Sinha & Natasha Bakht
Music:	Ganesh Anandan & Rainer Wiens
Rehearsal Director / Assistant:	Sophie Michaud
Lighting:	Caroline Ross
Costumes:	Vandal costumes (Liz Vandal & Yveline Bonjean)
Make-up:	Liz Vandal
Technical direction and Stage management:	Philippe Dupeyroux / Caroline Nadeau

## THOK: ARTISTS & COLLABORATORS

(2002)

Choreographer:	Roger Sinha
Dancers:	Tom Casey Sophie Lavigne Magdalena Nowecka Roger Sinha
Music:	Charmaine Leblanc & Dino Giancola
Rehearsal Director / Assistant:	Sophie Michaud
Lighting:	Caroline Ross
Costumes:	Marirosa Alain Cadieux / Manoeuvre Montréal
Technical direction and Stage management:	Philippe Dupeyroux / Caroline Nadeau

## Sinha Danse

Artistic Director: Roger Sinha  
General Manager: Gilles Larouche  
Assistant Director: Julie Messier  
Project Agent: Kakim Goh  
Touring Director: Sophie Michaud  
Accountant: Filofteia Nita

Represented by: George Skalkogiannis

Board of directors: Roger Hobden, president  
Louise Boyd, vice-president  
Roger Sinha, treasurer

Publicist (Toronto): Dianne Weinrib  
(DW Communications)

### Acknowledgements

Sinha Danse would like to thank the following individuals and institutions who made this presentation possible

- Denise Fujiwara, Adina Herling, Keith Cole, and all the volunteers from the *CanAsian Dance Festival*
- the staff and technical team from *the Betty Oliphant Theatre*
- our Toronto publicist Dianne Weinrib (DW Communications)
- Anita Bakht

*Sinha Danse* receives financial support from the *Canada Council for the Arts*, the *Quebec Council for Arts and Letters*, the *Fonds de Stabilisation et de consolidation des arts et de la culture du Québec* and the *Conseil des Arts de Montréal*.

*Sinha Danse* wishes to thank all their dancers and personnel for their valuable collaboration.

## CanAsian Dance Festival

Artistic Director: Denise Fujiwara  
General Manager: Adina Herling  
Publicist: Keith Cole  
Financial Administrator: Doriana Schiavi,  
Dance Umbrella of Ontario  
Central Box Office

Box Office:  
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*CanAsian Dance Festival* is a registered charity. Your involvement through sponsorship, partnership and patronage brings vitality to the Festival and the community.

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Québec

CONSEIL DES ARTS  
DE MONTRÉAL



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consolidation des  
arts et de la culture  
du Québec

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canAsian  
DANCE FESTIVAL

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ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
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**SINHA**  
danse

For information on  
our upcoming events  
and activities,  
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We also offer specialized  
workshops in contemporary  
dance based on Sinha's  
unique style.



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[www.sinhadanse.com](http://www.sinhadanse.com)