

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Citadel + Compagnie brings archives to life in 10-week online performing arts series Citadel Online

A live weekly celebration of the work of the incredible artists that have graced the stage of The Citadel, running April 28 – June 30, 2020.

TORONTO, ON – Citadel + Compagnie is thrilled to announce its newest initiative Citadel Online, a 10-week online performing arts series that looks back at some of the wonderful works that have taken place at The Citadel over the years, with new works released every Tuesday at 2PM EDT between April 28 – June 30, 2020.

Highlighting both previously presented Bright Nights artists and Citadel + Compagnie repertoire, on May 12, 2020, Citadel Online will shine a light on the company work *Les Paradis Perdus / Remix* by Artistic Director, Laurence Lemieux.

Inspired by childhood memories both fond and fearsome, *Les Paradis Perdus / Remix* was originally scheduled to be presented at The Citadel May 14-16 & 20-23, 2020, and was to be performed by Lemieux's children, dancers Jimmy and Juliette Coleman. Citadel Online will share footage from the company's 2015 production and bring this charming work to audiences in the wake of its spring COVID-19 cancellation.

"I am truly excited to share *Les Paradis Perdus / Remix* through our newest platform, Citadel Online," says Lemieux. "Though it is with sadness we will not see this work presented onstage, it has allowed for a wonderful opportunity to reflect. In addition to the performance footage, we will be sharing special insights on the creative process through interviews with composer Christopher Butterfield and dancers Luke Garwood and Erin Poole."

On May 26, 2020, Citadel Online will make available a second piece of Citadel + Compagnie repertoire, *Malcolm* by resident choreographer James Kudelka. Touted as "a big, bold, bright idea," by critic Deirdre Kelly, the work is performed by Kudelka with puppet Malcolm and touches on themes of love, loss and grief.

Citadel Online has been developed as a response to our current state of isolation due to the global pandemic, and the footage shared is archival. Nothing can replace the power of live performance. It is its 'liveness' that defines it. Live performance is what we do, how we engage and how we communicate. It allows for a visceral experience; a human experience; it allows for empathy.

But in this time of social distancing, when theatres are dark, we are all apart and we are turning to our screens for connection, we hope that this series may serve as a reminder of the grace, beauty and humanity that dance can uniquely offer.

Watch the special series announcement from Artistic Director, Laurence Lemieux.
<https://vimeo.com/409810080>



Photo by Jeremy Mimmagh

High-res photos available on the media page.

<https://www.citadelcie.com/media-page-citadel-online/>

Citadel Online

April 28 – June 30, 2020

New work released every Tuesday at 2PM EDT

Choreographers: Naishi Wang, Sabina Perry, Laurence Lemieux, Sarah Chase, James Kudelka, Allison Cummings, Serge Bennathan, Jane Alison McKinney, Heidi Strauss, Penny Couchie
Presented by Citadel + Compagnie

“It’s hard to remember a time when the Citadel was not a part of the dance life of Toronto.”

– Paula Citron

Series Lineup

April 28, 2020 *Taking Breath* by Naishi Wang
May 5, 2020 *FUNNY/FUNERAL* by Sabina Perry
May 12, 2020 *Les Paradis Perdus / Remix* by Laurence Lemieux
May 19, 2020 *unmoored* choreography/direction Sarah Chase, text/performance Peggy Baker
May 26, 2020 *Malcolm* by James Kudelka
June 2, 2020 *As she shall obtain such command of her mass vein passageways*
by Allison Cummings
June 9, 2020 *Just Words* by Serge Bennathan
June 16, 2020 *There she was* by Jane Alison McKinney
June 23, 2020 *baseline* by Heidi Strauss
June 30, 2020 *Serpent People* by Penny Couchie

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, C+C’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, C+C 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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