

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 8, 2020

## **Night Shift presents six boundary-pushing works in its dynamic second season**

*From traditional Sinhalese dance to street dance, bharatnatyam to western contemporary, this online dance event will stream live from The Citadel from Sept. 30-Oct. 9, 2020*

TORONTO, ON – Citadel + Compagnie (C+C) is excited to announce the second incarnation of *Night Shift*, a unique livestreamed event, co-presented with Fall for Dance North. *Night Shift* is an innovative take on presenting dance during these uncertain, pandemic times and will feature six powerful programs by Toronto-based performers, directed by Oscar-nominated Barbara Willis Sweete, and filmed live from The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance from Sept. 30-Oct. 2 and Oct. 7-9, 2020 and available for free at [citadelcie.com](http://citadelcie.com).

“We were delighted by the response to our open call earlier this summer, and we have been working hard to imagine creative ways to fulfill our mission of celebrating and supporting dancers and choreographers,” says C+C artistic director, Laurence Lemieux. “We are so excited to be presenting this extraordinary lineup of dance and venturing into this new livestream format.”

Currently in its second season, *Night Shift* has a mandate of presenting artists working in any and all forms of dance, and providing artistic and technical consultation for its Toronto-based artists. After receiving an overwhelming 101 applications, curators Nova Bhattacharya, Jon Drops Reid and Santee Smith reviewed the work with careful consideration and have selected six outstanding works submitted by Daniel Gomez, Kalaisan Kalaichelvan, Newton Moraes, Natasha Poon Woo, Swadhi Ranganee, and Irma Villafuerte.

“We need dance now more than ever to make sense of our world. This year’s *Night Shift* responds to these historic times with six stellar soloists, offering their dances to soothe our souls,” says curator, Nova Bhattacharya of Nova Dance.

“Last year, *Night Shift* was an immersion into forms live in the same space,” says curator Jon Drops Reid from Making Moves Creative House. “This year is a unique journey into forms created in live performance video that will shift the way we think of live experience and how dancers flow between mediums.”

For this online shift, C+C has enlisted Barbara Willis Sweete, former director of the Metropolitan Opera livestreams, who will be transforming The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance into a film studio – bringing her unparalleled experience and vision to capture live dance on screen in these challenging times. Following each performance, C+C’s Laurence Lemieux will be sitting down with the performers for a livestreamed candid post-show discussion.

This year, C+C is proud to be co-presenting *Night Shift* with Fall for Dance North, working together to reach new audiences through both partnership and the digital world.

## **NIGHT SHIFT 2020: Sept. 30-Oct. 9, 2020**

All livestreams begin at 9pm at [citadelcie.com/nightshift](http://citadelcie.com/nightshift) and are free

Recordings of each livestream will be available the day following the live performance until October 18, 2020.

For more info including high-res photos, bios, and head shots, [please visit the Night Shift 2020 media page](#).

### **Wednesday September 30, 2020**

*Concrete Skin*

Choreographer: Roderick George

Performers: Natasha Poon Woo and Roderick George

Choreographer Roderick George, in collaboration and performance with dance artist Natasha Poon Woo, combines the strict lines and courtly rituals of ballet with the precision and dynamism of hip-hop and club dancing in an ever-shifting play of contrasts and extremes. A sophisticated and thoughtful statement on today's Black and queer experiences, *Concrete Skin* challenges colonial mentalities, binary thinking, and the suppression of and disconnect from mixed-race identity.

### **Thursday October 1, 2020**

*Mudable*

Choreographer: Daniel Gomez

Performer: Peter D'Souza

*Mudable* is a solo that explores one's ability to adapt, and be capable and open to accepting change. The piece is inspired by constant change that happens in our lives. Living within street dance vocabulary, *Mudable* explores how we interact with different styles of music while moving through different emotions.

### **Friday October 2, 2020**

*Impressions*

Choreographer / Performer: Kalaisan Kalaichelvan

*Impressions* examines the nature of memory and meaning through Indian iconography.

Choreographer and performer, Kalaisan Kalaichelvan, explores how individuals are tied to each other in relation to the world around them.

### **Wednesday October 7, 2020**

*Lenchinaa*

Choreographer / Performer: Swadhi Ranganee

Swadhi Ranganee's *Lenchinaa* is an exploration of gendered aesthetics in Sinhalese traditional and contemporary dance, mapped against loose contours of a coming-of-age story as the protagonist makes her way through grace and vigour, restraint and abandon, the commonplace and the magical, finding freedom of identity in movement.

### **Thursday October 8, 2020**

*nudoDESnudo*

Choreographer / Performer: Irma Villafuerte

*nudoDESnudo* explores the embodied memories of growing up in postwar El Salvador—unresolved, inherited grief, and unending mourning—and the duality of Irma Villafuerte's migrant identity as a Canadian-born daughter of Salvadorian refugees.

### **Friday October 9, 2020**

*ASHE*

Choreographer: Newton Moraes

Performer: Pulga Muchochoma

Choreographed by Newton Moraes, and performed by Canadian-Mozambican dancer Pulga Muchochoma, *Ashe* exposes an imperative dialogue between cultures, suggesting an intercession between Brazil, Mozambique and Canada—a clear and honest manifesto for both communication and life in these pandemic times.

**About Citadel + Compagnie (citadelcie.com)**

Citadel + Compagnie (C+C) 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. 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.

*Night Shift is produced with the support of the City of Toronto through Toronto Arts Council, and made possible (in part) by the Government of Canada.*

*Night Shift is co-presented with Fall for Dance North.*

