

# ELEMENTAL & CALM ABIDING

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## Elemental

Choreographer and Performer Nova Bhattacharya  
Sound Design Ed Hanley  
Lighting Design Simon Rossiter  
Additional Sound Credits Ed Hanley (tabla, loops)  
Justin Gray (bass veena, electric guitar)  
Ben Grossman (hurdu-gurdy)  
Mixed and mastered by Justin Gray  
Produced by Ed Hanley

*Elemental*, choreographed by Nova Bhattacharya, celebrates the act of dance through an offering of movement and emotion. Using the most basic and primary elements of the performer's technical training and creative influences, it exposes the architecture of the body in relation to music, invokes the imagination and stimulates the senses. This work was first performed in 2019.

## Choreographer's Note:

*Elemental has been undergoing an exciting transformation as Laurence Lemieux and I have been conceptualizing the livestream. It is a newer piece that was only performed a few times and now it is inching closer to an even more honest revelation of the basic and primary elements of my practice and creative inspirations.*

## Calm Abiding

Choreographer José Navas  
Performer Nova Bhattacharya  
Music Alexander MacSween  
Lighting Design Marc Parent  
Costume Design Liz Vandal

*Calm Abiding* combines the choreographic craft of Venezuelan-born, Montrealer, José Navas with the dance language of Toronto's Bengali-Canadian, Bharatnatyam artist, Nova Bhattacharya. It is a virtuosic solo, motivated by the belief that the simplicity of movement is more powerful than words. This work was first performed in 2006 and was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Performance. Nova Dance is grateful for production partners, National Arts Centre, and Compagnie Flak.

## Performer's Note:

*I've been dancing Calm Abiding for 15 years now, and each time I come back to it is like taking that favourite dress out of the closet, the one that you found at a consignment store and had to save up to buy, the one that always feels great on your body, and makes you feel like the best version of yourself, reminding you of the parties you went to, the people you laughed with, the dreams that came true. The dance lives inside me at all times, and the work of bringing it out from mind, muscles and tissues into a tangible expression has been a comfort and a solace as we continue to navigate the pandemic.*

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## Livestream Production Team

|                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Director                   | Barbara Willis Sweete      |
| Executive Producer         | Laurence Lemieux           |
| Director of Photography    | Milan Podsedly             |
| Camera Operators           | Milan Podsedly, Don Spence |
| Steadicam Operator         | Dan Mackenzie              |
| Switcher                   | Jordan Calcafuoco          |
| Camera Assistant           | Alex Bros                  |
| Livestream Producer        | Paul-John Elisha           |
| Digital Imaging Technician | Jordan Calcafuoco          |
| Sound Designer             | John Gzowski               |
| Lighting Director          | Simon Rossiter             |
| Stage Manager              | Marianna Rosato            |
| Technical Director         | Andrew McCormack           |
| Script Assistant           | Juliette Coleman           |

*Livestream performance recorded on March 26, 2021.*

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## ARTISTIC TEAM

### **Nova Bhattacharya** | Choreographer & Performer

Nova Bhattacharya is a groundbreaking and award-winning dancer, choreographer and cultural leader based in Toronto, Canada. She is the founder and artistic director of Nova Dance, established in 2008. Her creations breathe rich life into the world of Canadian dance, rich with vivid images that invite the viewer on a journey of heart and mind. Her creative inspiration is found in her Bengali culture, Bharatnatyam practice, visual arts, literature, film, rock 'n' roll, rituals, nature and the unending cycles of life and death.

Her critically acclaimed works have toured Canada, Germany, India, Japan, the United Kingdom and Uganda. Her choreography has been commissioned by several dance and theatre companies and she is the recipient of multiple awards and nominations for artistic achievement and contributions to community, including the 2012 Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement. Nova believes that dance expresses the essence of our humanity and has tremendous transformative power to bring us together.

### **José Navas** | Choreographer

A native of Caracas, Venezuela, José Navas moved to New York before settling in Montreal, where he created his first choreography in 1991. Four years later he founded Compagnie Flak. José Navas dances with intensity in solo shows charged with emotion, he constructs abstract and captivating group pieces, and he creates pieces of contemporary ballet with classicism and sensitivity. As guest choreographer for prestigious ballet companies, he created an iconoclastic version of Giselle (2013) for Ballet BC, Watershed (2013) for the National Ballet of Canada, and Dénouement/Auflösung (2015) for the German company tanzmainz. His work has been presented in 30 countries in the Americas, Europe and Asia.

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**Ed Hanley** | Sound Design

Ed Hanley is a multi-dimensional artist – creator, performer, producer, photographer, cinematographer, recording engineer, video editor, educator, writer, and tabla player. He has been collaborating with dancer and choreographer Nova Bhattacharya since 2000 and they have created several notable works including *Maskura* (2000); *Related Fragments Remix* (2009); *Isolated Incidents* (2010); *Infinite Storms* (2016); *Elemental* (2019) and films *Ritual Traces* (2018) and *Invocations* (2020).

Ed's multimedia work embraces music, video and photography. Although best known as a practitioner of tabla, Ed's recent work in the visual world (including over 100 music videos) expresses the same joy, dynamism, love of collaboration, and attention to detail as his years as a touring and recording musician.

Ed has studied tabla for over 30 years with masters including Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri, Pandit Anindo Chatterjee and Taalyogi Suresh Talwalkar in Canada, the USA and on 10 journeys to India. He has also studied Carnatic drumming traditions with Sri Karaikudi Mani and Dr. Trichy Sankaran in Chennai and Toronto.

As co-artistic director of the Canadian world music ensemble Autorickshaw, Ed has been nominated for two Juno Award and the Grand Prize in the World Music category of the John Lennon Songwriting Competition.

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**Alexander MacSween** | Music

Musician, composer and sound artist, Alexander MacSween has collaborated on many dance, theatre and film projects. He has worked with Marie Brassard (Québec), André Gingras (The Netherlands), Brigitte Haentjens / Sybillnes (Québec), Interlude T/O (France), Robert Lepage (Québec), Montréal Danse (Québec), José Navas /Compagnie Flak (Québec), and T.r.a.n.s.i.t.s.c.a.p.e (Belgique). As a drummer, Alexander is active in the worlds of rock, improvisation and electronic music. He has played with Paolo Angeli, Tim Berne, Michel F Côté, Bionic, Frank Gratkowski, The Nils, and Sam Shalabi. He is a member of Martin Tétreault's Quatuor de tourne-disques and of the group Foodsoon, with Bernard Falaise and Fabrizio Gilardino. Alexander has also created solo pieces and sound installations. His work has been presented in several festivals, including CitySonics (Belgium), Sonorama (France) and Mutek (Québec). He also gives workshops on real-time sound processing for the performing arts presented by the CECN (Belgium) at various European centres, including Le Fresnoy (France), ArtZoyd (France) et TechnoCité (Belgium).

**Marc Parent** | Lighting Design

Marc Parent has worked as a lighting designer for over 30 years, creating designs for many choreographers in Montreal's contemporary dance scene, as well as theatre and opera. For Nova Dance he has lit *Calm Abiding* (2006), *Rufty Tufty* (2008), *Out of Bounds* (2006), *Isolated Incidents* (2010), *Akshongay* (2013) (Dora Nomination), *Infinite Storms* (2016) (Dora Nomination). Since 1990 Marc has lit much of Peggy Baker's solo work and all of her ensemble dances. Many of Marc's designs have been seen over the years in Toronto including *Villanelle + S* for José Navas/Compagnie Flak, and *Te souvient--il?* by Louise Bédard/Sylvain Émard. He is currently resident lighting designer for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal. Marc is the recipient of two Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding Lighting Designs for Peggy Baker Dance Projects' *Stereophonic* in 2013 and *Phase Space* in 2016.

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**Simon Rossiter** | Lighting Design & Director

Simon Rossiter is a lighting designer who occasionally designs scenery. He has created more than 250 original designs, including works with Ballett am Rhein; Citadel + Compagnie; the National Ballet of Canada; Soulpepper Theatre Company; Théâtre français de Toronto; Toronto Dance Theatre; and he is the lighting director of Fall for Dance North. The recipient of three Dora Mavor Moore awards and nine nominations for Outstanding Lighting Design, Simon also sits on the Board of Directors of the Associated Designers of Canada.

**PRODUCTION TEAM****Barbara Willis Sweete** | Director

Barbara Willis Sweete is an Oscar-nominated film industry veteran and founding partner of Rhombus Media, specialists in Performing Arts Films. Now with Artemis Pictures, Barbara produces and directs films and TV programs in all genres. Her work has been shown at major international film festivals and has received many top awards, including an Oscar nomination, four Emmys, three Grammy nominations, and many Geminis, Genies and Canadian Screen Awards.

Barbara has directed several notable dance films and has collaborated with such choreographers as James Kudelka (*Four Seasons, Firebird*), Mark Morris (*Falling Down Stairs, Dido and Aeneas*), Lar Lubovitch (*Fandango*), Doug Varone (*The Planets*), Mark Godden (*The Tale of the Magic Flute*), Santee Smith (*I Lost My Talk*) and David Earle (*Romeos and Juliets*).

Over the last decade, Barbara has directed more than 30 Live in HD Operas that were transmitted live from New York's Metropolitan Opera to 2600 cinemas in 76 countries.

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**Milan Podsedly** | Director of Photography

Milan Podsedly, CSC, is an award-winning director of photography who has an extensive career in TV, film, documentaries, and live performance. His credits include movies "Christmas Around the Corner", "Mum's the Word", and "Billy Bishop Goes To War"; and TV series including "My Perfect Landing," "The Next Step VI", and "Dan for Mayor II".

His performing arts and documentary work includes "I Lost My Talk" with the National Arts Centre, "Songs of Freedom", a feature-length documentary and miniseries with soprano Measha Brueggergosman, "Sketches of Dvorak", a documentary about the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, and "Yo-Yo Ma's Inspired by Bach: Falling Down Stairs," a TV special featuring Yo-Yo Ma, and Mark Morris Dance Group.

He has won a number of photography awards including a 2016 Canadian Screen Award, and a 2009 Gemini Award.

**Paul-John Elisha** | Livestream Producer

Paul-John Elisha joined Citadel + Compagnie in 2019 as a Digital Marketing Specialist. He graduated from Ryerson School of Performance in Dance (2017) and RED Academy with a Digital Marketing Diploma (2019). Since then, he has moved towards data analysis, ads management, frontend development, and livestream broadcasting for The Citadel. Earlier in 2020, he created a digital platform and livestreamed *Citadel Online* from the company's current website featuring 10 archived works. His goal is to help enhance Citadel + Compagnie's digital experience as well as implement new opportunities for dance online.

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**John Gzowski** | Sound Designer

Composer, sound designer, musician and instrument maker John Gzowski has worked on over 200 theatre, dance and film productions for which he has done composition, sound design, live foley, live music and as musical director. He has played banjo for opera in Banff, studied Carnatic classical music in India and played oud and guitar in jazz and folk festivals across Canada and Europe. His theatre work has won him 6 Dora Awards, from 18 nominations for companies like Stratford, Shaw Festival, Luminato, National Arts Centre, the Mirvishes, MTC, the Arts Club, Canstage, Souleppper, Dancemakers, Red Sky, Tarragon, Factory Theatre and YPT. Gzowski has played on numerous CDs, with recent releases with Patricia O'Callaghan, Tasa, and Autorickshaw, as well as a Juno nomination with Maza Meze. He has run Canada's first microtonal group, touring Canada playing the works of Harry Partch, composed and performed with several new music groups and worked as co-artistic director of the Music Gallery.

**Marianna Rosato** | Stage Manager

A Toronto native, Marianna Rosato received her BFA as a graduate of Ryerson's School of Performance – where she now teaches Dance Stage Management. Marianna spent three years as the assistant stage manager for Toronto Dance Theatre before working as a freelance SM in Toronto. During that time she stage managed works for Fujiwara Dance Inventions, Tiger Princess Dance Projects, Adelheid Dance Projects, BoucharDanse, Blue Ceiling Dance, the Older & Reckless series for Moonhorse Dance Theatre, the National Ballet School of Canada, the School of Toronto Dance Theatre, and many others. Outside of dance, Marianna spent 11 seasons as the Production Stage Manager for Mainstage Theatre Company. In 2014, Marianna began stage managing for Citadel + Compagnie, and after receiving a Metcalf internship, became the company's Production Stage Manager in 2017.

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**Andrew McCormack** | Technical Director

Andrew McCormack began his working relationship with Citadel + Compagnie as a dancer in 2014, after graduating from Ryerson University's Performance Dance program (2011-2015). In 2016, Andrew expanded his role, working as a technician for the company, and officially became The Citadel's Technical Director in 2018. Andrew's interests within theatre have continued to expand into working in lighting design after having worked with various indie choreographers in his capacity as a technician at The Citadel. As a lighting designer, Andrew has recently had the opportunity to work with established choreographers Danny Grossman (2018) and Janak Khendry (2019) and as the designer for Night Shift's inaugural 2019 season.

**Juliette Coleman** | Script Assistant

Born in Montreal, Juliette trained as a dancer at Canada's National Ballet School, and later at the School of Toronto Dance Theatre upon graduating from Rosedale Heights School of The Arts. In 2018 she founded *Not a Collective*, a company housed at The Citadel, that works and collaborates with artists to produce multidisciplinary art events in Toronto such as concerts and festivals, film screenings, art exhibits and more. Through *Not a Collective*, she has organized fundraisers for local community organizations including Casey House, Regent Park Film Festival and Dixon Hall. She is currently receiving a certificate at Ryerson University in Mental health and addiction. Juliette is thrilled to be working alongside Barbara Willis Sweete as a script assistant for the livestream of Night Shift.

## ABOUT

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.

Led by Artistic Director, Laurence Lemieux, the organization supports the artistic activities of its dance company, its multiple presentation platforms and its training program. At its core, the company commits to the creation and production of innovative and accessible original works of dance, and the preservation of iconic Canadian repertoire.

Through key neighbourhood initiatives, such as offering free studio access to Toronto Council Fire's Indigenous dance program, First Fire, and providing free dance education to local children and youth through the Citadel Dance Program, The Citadel has become a sought-after safe space for artists and youth to gather and explore their creativity.

### CITADEL + COMPAGNIE STAFF 2020 - 2021

|                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Artistic Director         | Laurence Lemieux     |
| General Manager           | Kaitlin Standeven    |
| Production Manager        | Marianna Rosato      |
| Marketing Manager         | Paul-John Elisha     |
| Communications + Outreach | Lindsay Zier-Vogel   |
| Development + Touring     | Tyler Gledhill       |
| Graphic Design            | Mssngr (Laura Wills) |

Citadel + Compagnie wishes to express its deep gratitude towards the following supporters whose significant lifetime giving of over \$100,000 has helped us create not only The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance but has also helped with our operations, productions and tours.

Thank you!

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 The Delaney Family Foundation  
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 Gail Hutchison  
 Janice Lewis & Mitchel Cohen  
 Jerry & Joan Lozinski  
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 Robin Vaile Robinson

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