



Citadel + Compagnie Announces The 2021/22 Season

Opening with the World Premiere of

***A Perfect Day* Choreographed and Performed by Artistic Director Laurence Lemieux**

and featuring new creations

by Christine Friday, Heidi Strauss and Naishi Wang

For Immediate Release October 26, 2021(Toronto, ON): Artistic Director Laurence Lemieux, announced today the programming for the 2021/22 Season at The Citadel with a warm welcome to audiences and artists alike. The season features an exciting mix of in-person and livestream presentations allowing for moving exchanges between artists and audiences to be felt in the magic space of the theatre and at home. Programming ranges from intimate solos to large ensemble works and investigates themes of resilience, strength, proximity and relationship.

"The pandemic has highlighted the importance of the performing arts, and its unique ability to connect people in a shared human experience," says Artistic Director Laurence Lemieux. "The 21/22 Season brings together a wide range of artists exploring how and where we connect. It is an extremely interesting time to be programming, as we will all be looking at work through a new post-pandemic lense. I hope for this season to pay tribute to the power of the creative process to drive artists forward, and the strength of artists' desire to continue to provoke and inspire through dance."

Over the 2020/21 Season, Citadel + Compagnie successfully transitioned its programming online, and now the company is poised to press "play" in the real world and welcome the community home to its theatre, The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance. The company continued its support of artists and grew audience engagement exponentially over the past 2 years by investing in digital programming that honours and elevates dance. Further accomplishments include Night Shift and Citadel LIVE, two livestream series initiated during the pandemic to allow dance to shine in the digital space. The series brought powerful artistic expressions by artists such as Syreeta Hector and Nova Bhattacharya to viewers across the country and around the globe.

Citadel + Compagnie has received consistent support from a devoted audience and donor base over the last 18 months. The quality of livestream programming throughout the 20/21 season, directed by Oscar-nominated Barbara Willis Sweete, inspired major donor support of the company's upcoming project ***Four Old Legs: The Film***. The film adapts James Kudelka's original stage production, starring legendary ballerina Evelyn Hart and Zhenya Cerneacov, to the screen through the vision of acclaimed director Barbara Willis Sweete.

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In preparation for reopening the company has worked to elevate the audience experience at The Citadel. Upgrades include a new café and bar in the lobby of the theatre, improved seating made possible through a partnership with Dancemakers, and equipment upgrades enabling more artistic versatility for the company's in-person and virtual programming all made possible by the Government of Canada through the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund. Improvements have also been made to the company's virtual experiences with the creation of a new website, streaming platform and ticketing system for digital programming made possible with support from the Canada Council for the Arts Digital Strategy Fund.

"We have been incredibly inspired by the resilience of the artists we work with to persevere through multiple postponements, reworkings and cancellations. We are proud to have successfully brought many of these adaptations to life through intimate livestream presentations and to have connected with audiences across Canada and all over the world. It brings us great pleasure to continue to develop digital models while also inviting audiences to return home to The Citadel, where we can finally connect in person once again," says Kaitlin Standeven, General Manager.

After nearly 2 years since the company's last live presentation, it is with great pleasure that Citadel + Compagnie reopens its doors for intimate in-person performances.

MEDIA PREVIEW PERFORMANCE – November 2, 2021

Media interested in attending the Preview of ***A Perfect Day*** may attend the Dress Rehearsal on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, by indicating their interest and number of tickets required by November 1. Opening night is on Thursday, November 4 and members of the media may also attend if reviewing the performance. Tickets may be picked up at the box office with a limit of 2 tickets per media outlet. Proof of vaccination and photo ID is required along with a mask for all performances at The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance.

A Perfect Day

November 4 – 6, 10 – 13, 2021 (In-Person)

Choreographed and Performed by Laurence Lemieux

World Premiere

Citadel + Compagnie

Set to excerpts of Glenn Gould's rendition of Bach's Two- and Three-Part Inventions, and accompanied by a luminous sound design by John Gzowski, ***A Perfect Day*** speaks to Laurence Lemieux's relationship to dance over time, and her sense of self within it. Created over the pandemic, the work reflects on seminal moments in her development as an artist and her relationship to dance itself. It is the company's first in person offering and small audiences will join Laurence in reflection over what the experience of watching dance means to them.

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Citadel LIVE On Demand

November 15 - 28, 2021 (Film Release)

TALENT/SHOW

Choreographed by Sabina Perry

A JOHNSON/PERRY Production

Digital World Premiere

As the line between amateur and professional blurs, and entertainment and art grow closer together, three performers take to the stage to “show you what they can do”. An investigation of success, failure, and audience expectation in a talent show about who the real losers are.

I: POLITICAL

Choreographed by Mateo Galindo Torres

A Guetcha Guaritcha Production

Digital World Premiere

Choreographed by Mateo Galindo Torres, **I: POLITICAL**, uses a mixture of contemporary dance, poetry, projections, original music, sculpture, and live painting, to reflect on the relationship and conflict between personal expressions of identity and social constructs.

this place

Choreographed by Karen Kaeja

A Guetcha Guaritcha Production

Digital World Premiere

this place, choreographed by Karen Kaeja, and performed by Mateo Galindo Torres and Katherine Semchuk, is a visceral ride through the real and the imaginary, as two people aim to find coherence in their proximity and solitude. Colliding their desires with hesitation, we witness their emotional journey through the hyper-engaged eye of the camera.

allies and friends

November 26 – 27, 2021 (In-Person)

With Mateo Galindo Torres, Michael Mortley/Atri Nundy, Yui Ugai, Morgyn Aronyk-Schell, Claire Whitaker, Shannon Litzenberger

Presented by wind in the leaves collective

MORE....

Citadel Dance Mix 2021

December 1 – 4, 2021 (In-Person / Livestream on Friday December 3)

Choreographed by Christine Friday and Sasha Ivanochko

Includes 1 World Premiere

Part of the Citadel LIVE series

Featuring ***The view from here*** choreographed by Sasha Ivanochko and performed by Dora-award winning dancer Jillian Peever, and ***Firewater Thunderbird Rising*** by Indigenous storyteller Christine Friday.

New Tricks

January 19 – 23, 2022 (In-Person)

Choreographed by Christopher House

World Premiere

New Tricks uses costume, disguise, props, and 44 years of choreographic research to explore new ways of moving in a veteran body. The work is unabashedly personal and playful and is governed by a desire to embody liveness, the ambiguity of gesture, the potential of failure and inefficiency, and the queering of both the imagination and the body. A question hovering over the making of *New Tricks* is “How would I move if I dared?”

This Duet That We've Already Done (so many times)

January 27 – 29, 2022 (In-Person)

Choreographed by Frédéric Gravel

Toronto Premiere

Part of the Bright Nights series

A choreographer, musician, dancer, and jack of all trades who is both inspiring and unclassifiable, Frédéric Gravel presents a duet that initially looks somewhat like a realistic painting. With the invigorating Brianna Lombardo he shares both the stage and a complicity that allows for all sorts of inventions, and she becomes the counterpoint to his assumed awkwardness. Freed from the traditional codes of dance performance, they construct an original dramatic language where little accidents are transformed into arguments for movement.

MORE...

on air

February 18 – 19, 23 – 26, 2022 (In-Person / Livestream on Friday February 25)

Choreographed by Heidi Strauss

World Premiere

Part of the Citadel LIVE series

on air is a conversation between three women forcibly yet delicately exploring generational difference, the juxtaposition of real and virtual, and the state of being in-between: partly there, partly not – the absent presence. Through play and relationship, the dancers and audience approach the uncertain and unanswerable together.

Re:Imaginings

March 3 – 5, 2022 (In-Person)

Choreographed by Kevin A. Ormsby (with concept development by Ronald A. Taylor, Arsenio Andrade and the artists)

World Premiere

Presented by KasheDance

Re:Imaginings (*time, place, movement - TPM*) is rooted in the re-investigation of contemporary Caribbean dance language, like bpm (beats per minute); the work explores Caribbean rhythms, cultural practices and the influence they have had on the Canadian cultural landscape.

Re:Imaginings (*time, place, movement - TPM*) unearths historical/cultural connections of the Caribbean in Canada.

allies and friends

April 8 – 9, 2022 (In-Person)

With Heidi Strauss, Charlie Petch, Shannon Litzenberger/Kenwin, Mayumi Lashbrook, BaKari Lindsay/Tereka Tyler-Davis, Kevin A. Ormsby

Presented by wind in the leaves collective

Face to Face

April 20 – 23, 27 – 30, 2022 (In-Person)

Choreographed by Naishi Wang

World Premiere

Part of the Bright Nights series

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Face to Face is a conceptual dance/body theatre duet. The work explores the complexity of human emotions in real space by looking at Emoji characters in cyber reality to find connections in nonverbal forms of communication.

The Miserere Project

May 18 – 22, 2022 (In-Person)

Choreographed by David Earle, Penny Couchie, Same As Sister (S.A.S.), Brodie Stevenson

Produced by Danielle Baskerville

Includes 3 World Premieres

Part of the Bright Nights series

On the 40th anniversary of the creation of David Earle's celebrated masterwork, **Miserere**, three choreographers have been commissioned to create contemporary responses using Earle's **Miserere** as their creative seed. The evening will be comprised of three world premieres by choreographers Penny Couchie, Same As Sister (S.A.S.), and Brodie Stevenson as well as a remount of Earle's **Miserere** in its original form for fifteen dancers.

allies and friends

May 27 - 28, 2022 (In-Person)

With Sheniz Janmohamed/Atri nundy, Andrea Thompson/Marcelo Dacosta, Ana Groppler, Deltin Sejour

Presented by wind in the leaves collective

themselves

June 15 – 18, 2022 (In-Person)

Choreographed by Emma Kerson

World Premiere

Part of the Bright Nights series

Hanging in the balance of me versus we, **themselves** weaves amongst four individuals in search of place and connection while asking the question, "can my skin be permeable to my own self?" A play of subverted expectations and redefined relationships to time and space, **themselves** revels in the magnitude of subtleties, building a world of grounded magic, sensitivities, absurdities, and everyday affects.

MORE...

About Citadel + Compagnie

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 company's vision is for exceptional dance to reach diverse communities and audiences and foster ongoing dialogue between artists and the public.

Citadel + Compagnie's curated performing arts series, Bright Nights, cultivates Canadian contemporary dance, showcasing artists from diverse backgrounds, including emerging, Francophone and Indigenous choreographers. Night Shift, Citadel + Compagnie's late-night dance fest, furthers this cultivation by making space for the work of boundary pushing artists exploring and practicing within all forms of dance.

Under Lemieux's leadership, Citadel + Compagnie has had a marked impact on its immediate community and fosters creative practice through its new umbrella Residency Program. Through its Creative Incubator Pilot Project, four artists and organizations—Syreeta Hector, Naishi Wang, adelheid and Nova Dance—have been invited to explore and expand their artistic projects at The Citadel. Additionally, The Citadel hosts KasheDance as its company-in-residence, wind in the leaves collective as its presenter-in-residence, and Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre as its lead community partner.

The Citadel Dance Program cultivates dance within Citadel + Compagnie's immediate neighbourhood, delivering free dance education to local youth, making dance both accessible and visible to those living within Regent Park, and increasing awareness of the art form.

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