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ALLIES AND FRIENDS

NOV 11-12.2022
MARCH 24-25.2023
MAY 26-27.2023

CITADEL
LIVE 22.23
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CITADEL+COMPAGNIE

wind in the leaves collective presents

allies and friends

Nov 11-12, 2022 | 8pm | The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance
Nov 12 | 8pm performance also being live-streamed at citadelcie.com

And I Wonder | Roula Said

Untitled Red | Ronald A. Taylor

-15 minute intermission -

everything is everything: spirit of 5

A reimagination based on previous choreography by:
Aria Evans, Jesse Dell, Lilia Leon, and Yui Ugai

Running time | approximately 1 hour 15 mins
Audience warning | use of haze and strobe

Citadel + Compagnie

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General Manager: Kaitlin Standeven*
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Artistic Producer: Mateo G. Torres
Night Shift + Bright Nights Coordinator:
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*on maternity leave

wind in the leaves collective

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Project Coordinator: Victoria Glizer
Social Media Coordinator: Claire Whitaker

allies and friends

Production Stage Manager: Sharon DiGenova
Lighting Designer: Andrew McCormack

Live Stream

Live Stream Videographer: S-Quire Johnson
Live Stream Director: Elijah Stefura
Sound Engineer: Pablo Rincon
House Technician: Matthew Maaskant

Greetings

dear friends, colleagues, fellow artists, the interested and the curious, as artistic director of the wind in the leaves collective, i'm honoured to share with you our first of three programs we're presenting in collaboration with Citadel + Compagnie this season. for the collective, working in collaboration is core to our being and we're grateful that this program is co-sponsored as part of the Citadel Live's 2022-2023 season.

encouraged by our well-received first, second and third seasons, this season is once again curated to showcase the year's theme, this one being Tongues Entwined: Where Black Arts Meets Sufism which will bring together artists practicing in the Black/Afro-diasporic aesthetic and Sufi arts practices.

the collective works with others to perform work that involves dance/poetry. in working out of the Citadel, we are establishing a venue for this genre and building interest amongst artists for similar performances. we see this as a way to engage IBPOC artists as foundational to this project and to engage artists from non-equity groups in sharing across the borders of identities - race, gender, sexual orientation, Indigeneity, and disabilities.

to do this, we collaborate with artists who see their work involved in transformative social change. this allows the collective to deepen our own practice of connecting dance with poetry and connecting with artists who work in this space. for this upcoming season, each artist has been chosen to present work influenced by Black and/or Sufi arts practices that share elements of poetry/spoken word/dance/music and, in some cases, video and includes artists who are committed to social justice and represent diverse identities - Latinx/Palestinian/Black/Moroccan/Persian/Queer/Asian.

driven by dance and poetry, our 2022-23 season will provide a platform to increase the presence of the multi-disciplinary performances that are the foundation of the collective's work, and to provide opportunities for artists to share their work and to promote this unique and compelling art. given the success of the artists involved and the venue in which these performances will take place, the collective anticipates building community of practice amongst these artists while, at the same time, building an audience from IBPOC and other marginalized communities and the public who are interested in such methods of performance.

for our first foray into this new season, i'm honoured that we are working with these incredible artists:

Roula Said is a singer, dancer, musician and wordsmith of Palestinian heritage based in Toronto. she plays qanun (table harp) and percussion to accompany traditional Arabic songs and originals created from her Sufi-inspired poems. Roula is currently immersed in composing her *SongVversations with the Beloved* with the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts. she will perform a Sufi-inspired dance with poetry, song and instrumentals in an exciting repertoire.

Ronald A. Taylor Dance is featuring Jillia Cato and Emilie Jabouin performing *The Spirit of Untitled Red* which is the healing journey connecting the past histories of our ancestors, to the present moment to awaken the rising spirit and engage with the physical for the healing of our nation's future. the transformative spirit of dance travelling through dimensional realms of existence - ancestors, dreams, blood memory and the land - are directly connected to our way of living and being in this landscape. Truth! Brokenhearted and shipwrecked, some survive the middle passage. We gave into fate and danced Untitled Red. Red is the blood of the abandoned; some live to tell the tale, with the stand-alone spirit from the doors of no return to arrive upon these lands of new possibilities. Take flight, unite, triumph, ah! Blessings.

the **wind in the leaves collective's** artists **Morgyn Aronyk-Schell and charles c. smith** - will perform *'everything is everything: spirit of 5'* with **Victoria Matasoleadad**. *'everything is everything: spirit of 5'* was choreographed with video work by Aria Evans and Jesse Dell. this work captures the relationships between people, the spiritual and natural world as an exploration of connection to ancestors who had such practices.

i hope you enjoy this evening! and stay tuned as we're back in March and May featuring such artists as Rodney Diverlus, Meryem Alaoui, Sina Bathiaie, Tina Bararian, and Pamela Mordecai.



And I Wonder | Roula Said

Choreography: Roula Said

Performers: Roula Said, Patrick O'Reilly (guitar and laptop), Tara Moneka (vocals and percussion)

Sound Design: collaboration between the performers

Outside Eye: Julia Aplin

This new creation weaves together movement, music and poetry written by Roula (except "I am from There", by Mahmoud Darwish). It explores the author's personal experience of racism "between the lines", where home lives, and the medicine of Love as a devotional practice.

Special Thanks

Gratitude to Ayelet Rose Gottlieb and Naomi Duguid for guidance and wise reflection.

Untitled Red | Ronald A. Taylor

Choreography: Ronald A. Taylor

Performers: Emilie Jabouin and Jillia Cato

Sound Design/Composer: Cantemos, The Latin Chamber Ensemble of the Upper Canada Choristers

The spirit of *Untitled Red* is the healing journey connecting the past histories of our ancestors, to the present moment to awaken the rising spirit and engage with the physical for the healing of our nation's future. The transformative spirit of dance travelling through dimensional realms of existence - ancestors, dreams, blood memory and the land – are directly connected to our way of living and being in this landscape.

Truth! Brokenhearted and shipwrecked, some survive the middle passage. We gave into fate and danced *Untitled Red*. Red is the blood of the abandoned; some live to tell the tale, with the stand-alone spirit from the doors of no return to arrive upon these lands of new possibilities. Take flight, unite, triumph, ah! Blessings.

Special Thanks

We'd like to thank the Canada Council for the Arts for providing us a grant for this work.

- 15 minute intermission -

everything is everything: spirit of 5

A reimagination based on previous choreography by: Aria Evans, Jesse Dell, Lilia Leon, and Yui Ugai

Performers: Morgyn Aronyk-Schell, Victoria Matasoleadad, Charles C. Smith

Sound Design/Composer: John Luther Adams – *In the White Silence: D*; Constantinople – *Poisson au fond de l'océan*; the Masada Trio – *Garzana*; Anja Lechner and Francois Courturier – *Voyage*

everything is everything captures the relationships between people, the spiritual and natural world as an exploration of connection to ancestors who had such practices.

Meet the Artists



MORGYN ARONYK-SHELL (She/They) is a freelance contemporary dance artist and an arts educator for youth and seniors. They are a co-creator of *'Blank Space'*, a series of movement-based community workshops. She moved from Edmonton, AB to T'karonto to study at the School of Toronto Dance Theatre's professional training program, graduating in 2019. Following graduation, they travelled to Mexico for a residency with La Escuela Profesional de Danza de Mazatlán. Since then, she has worked with Frog in Hand, Human Body Expression, Kaeja d'Dance, Peggy Baker, Citadel + Compagnie, wind in the leaves collective, and Tiger Princess Dance Projects, and has performed in Nextfest, the Toronto and Edmonton Fringe Festivals, InSitu, Dance Ontario DanceWeekend, SummerWorks and the Festival des arts de Saint-Sauveur.



JILLIA CATO has danced across the globe since she was 18 years old, opening for and sharing stages with Maroon 5, Chris Brown, Wyclef and Pitbull to name a few, with Machel Montano for two years and ten with Kes The Band Dancer. She's danced competitively and commercially for the past 20 years appearing in numerous music videos, commercials and films. She has judged and guest performed with the NBC TV Show *'World of Dance'* featuring J-Lo, for their qualifiers in Trinidad (2018). Having been trained in Caribbean Folk, Contemporary, Ballet, Indian Classical, Dancehall and more, graduating as Valedictorian from her BFA in Performing Arts, she is also a Dance Teacher, Choreographer, performer and singer. She has been the stage manager for The National Theatre Arts Company of Trinidad and Tobago for the past three years, as well as for other dance and performance companies since 2015.



EMILIE JABOUIN (Zila for stage), is a curious intuitive dance artist and researcher who uses her story-telling abilities for collective liberation and engages in performance and research projects that focus on social transformation, reparations and collective healing. Under the mentorship of master drummer, Haitian teacher and choreographer Peniel Guerrier, Emilie has embarked on her path of learning, sharing and living Haitian culture through folk drumming, singing and dancing. This journey has allowed her to explore her upcoming work *"The Release"* that speaks of challenging conversations around womb stories and secrets. Emilie offers Haitian dance classes to heal the body, mind and spirit through movement, chanting and rhythm exploration for various levels and abilities, and has developed a specialized workshop for creatives to find their unique movement voice. In 2020, she merged her art and research practices and founded a multi-faceted research, performance, and production company, Emirj Projects, which offers research, production and artistic services to help creatives manifest their vision (www.emirj.ca). Emilie is the author of an article on Black women jazz dancers in mid-twentieth-century in Montréal published in the Canadian Journal of History and is working on excavating the lives of black women performers in early twentieth-century Ontario.

Meet the Artists



VICTORIA MATASOLEIDAD is a Venezuelan-Canadian settler in T’Koronto. Poly-lingual choreographer, dance artist and activist with a background in expressive arts therapy. Mata’s career was first sculpted by pedagogic, self-directed training, which proceeded with training under internationally renowned choreographers. Mata’s sensibility to inclusion and border stories is due to her eclectic upbringing in three continents before the age of fifteen. Mata’s intimate, dynamic and visceral aesthetic is rooted in traditional Venezuelan dance genres reframed through contemporary expressions. Intersectional, multi-framed community arts and the abolishment of violence against women are some of Mata’s passion. She has intricately weaved these themes in her MFA in Contemporary Choreography and is the foundation for some of her recognitions such as being a recipient of the Metcalf Foundation, a finalist of the Toronto Arts Foundation Emerging Artist Award and 7 Dora nominations. Mata deeply believes in the arts as a core and tangible mode of sustaining and transforming the paradigms of oppressive tropes to populate a sphere of discourse, play, exploration and possibility.



TARA MONEKA was a child singing sensation in her native Baghdad thanks to her appearance on the Middle Eastern TV show *The Voice*. She is now based in Toronto and fronting her own all-women superstar band, Dijlah which is taking the town by storm! Tara is also steeped Afro-Sufi singing and drumming in the tradition of her family.



PATRICK O'REILLY is a composer/guitarist and a community-driven fixture in the Toronto creative music scene. Patrick’s open-minded approach embraces both beauty and brashness; he is co-curator of the Furniture Music and Ornate Presents concert/workshop series and operates the W/DRWN record label. His trio Wire Circus has released two albums showcasing Patrick’s compositions alongside the pixilated/frenetic improvisation that is the culmination of their longstanding collaborative history. He also co-leads the international quartet Sonic Perfume who have released two albums together, and the trio WAPAMA who explores the freedom of expression through rhythm, melody, and harmony.

Meet the Artists



ROULA SAID is a multi-faceted artist of Palestinian heritage based in Toronto, Canada. As a mover, Roula has been primarily a performer, teacher and eternal student of Bellydance and Sufi-style whirling. She is also a member of Wild Soma Collective, along with Andrea Nann, Shannon Litzenberger and Julia Aplin, exploring embodiment as a world-making practice and an architecture connecting us to ourselves, each other and all of life. As a musician and poet, Roula sings and plays qanun (table-harp) and percussion to accompany traditional Arabic songs and original songs created from her Sufi-inspired poems. Deeply interested in ceremony and meaningful transitions, Roula also works as a wedding officiant and a death doula, supporting and empowering individuals and families to expand into areas of greater choice, agency and even beauty when it comes to death care.



CHARLES C SMITH is a poet, playwright and performer. He studied poetry and drama at New York City University and Herbert Berghof Studios, and drama at The Frank Silvera's Writers' Workshop in Harlem. His play *Last Days for the Desperate* won an award from Black Theatre Canada. He has received a grant from the Ontario Arts Council's Writers Reserve Grants Program and the Toronto Arts Council Writers Grants Program, has published four books of poetry (the latest one being released on 10 May 2018!), has edited several collections of poetry (including the works of Dionne Brand, Marlene Nourbese Phillips, Claire Harris, Cyril Dabydeen, Lillian Allen, George Elliott Clarke, Clifton Joseph). His writings have appeared in numerous journals and magazines, including Poetry Canada Review, the Quill and Quire, Descant, Dandelion, Fiddlehead, Anti-Racism in Education: Missing in Action (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives), the Amethyst Review, Bywords, Canadian Ethnic Studies and others.

Charles was also the founder of the Black Perspectives Cultural Program in Regent Park and has over the years continued to develop and convene community arts workshops in high-needs areas throughout the GTA, funded provided by the Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto Arts Council.

Meet the Artists



RONALD A. TAYLOR is the Artistic Director of the Toronto-based company Ronald Taylor Dance (formerly known as Canboulay Dance Theatre) founded in 1993. Taylor's talent was first nurtured by the late Astor Johnson of the innovative Repertory Dance Theatre (Trinidad). After leaving Trinidad and Tobago, the birthplace of internationally acclaimed dance pioneers Geoffrey Holder and Beryl McBurnie, Taylor enrolled in the renowned Juilliard School - Dance division in New York. Under Héctor Zaraspe, international ballet master and private teacher to Rudolf Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn, Taylor graduated with a BFA in Dance. His stay with Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) and they afforded him two prestigious awards - the DTH Scholarship Award and the Maxwell and Muriel Bluck Scholarship Award. Taylor moved to Canada in the early '90's and emerged as a leading force in Black Dance. During that period, he turned his focus on training new graduates in theater and dance, at the same time collaborating with the umbrella of dance organization "Dance Immersion".

True to his Caribbean roots, his work fuses Modern with Folk, and traditional Ballet in a distinctive style which Taylor describes as "Contemporary Caribbean". Ronald has successfully pursued a Master of Arts degree at York University. In his capacity as dance educator, Taylor taught at York's Faculty of Fine Arts and at designated school programs across Ontario, Western Canada, Belize, USA, Africa and parts of the Caribbean. He was also selected to be part of The Djerassi Resident Artists Program in California, a program internationally recognized as one of the eminent artist residency programs for artists of superior talent, who are chosen from a diverse range of backgrounds and geographical locations.

In June 2019, Ronald Taylor Dance explored/showcased the development of *PSYCHOSIS*; a collaborative 1hr full work inspired by the investigation of his mental health episode in Canada; pulling into the present, an awareness of adversity, reconciliation and resilience. Connecting relationships between disability, environments and the human spirit, *PSYCHOSIS* seeks to explore the trauma of ongoing mental health challenges. The world premiere of *PSYCHOSIS* will take place in May 2023.



wind in the leaves collective

Presenter-in-Residence at The Citadel

The 'wind in the leaves collective' has developed a significant body of work over the past decade. Our unique approach to multi-disciplinary performance takes its lead from the artistic director's poetry which is explored and choreographed by dancers, musicians and video artists.

This collaboration across disciplines has been successful in engaging audiences and building a profile for this type of performance. The 'collective' is now staging performances with other artists that involve similar elements, i.e., connecting poetry with dance and music in creation and performance. The 'collective' has been approached by the Citadel to curate performances and is now Presenter in Residence at the Citadel where selected artists will share the stage and advance the notion of poetry and dance as a seamless art form practiced by racialized and Indigenous artists and drawing from historic pre-colonial practices made contemporary.

www.windintheleavescollective.com

Citadel + Compagnie is an artistic and community entity with a dual purpose. It is at once both place and people.

The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance is a remarkable building nestled in the Regent Park neighbourhood of Toronto. Since 2012, The Citadel has established itself as an open and welcoming space for artists to rehearse, create and perform, and where the community can learn, communicate, and share.

The Citadel also acts as home to its own professional dance company, led by artistic director Laurence Lemieux, and plays host to a range of creative incubator and residency programs for some of Canada's most interesting emerging choreographers and dance companies.

www.citadelcie.com

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**Donation directly supports C+C's Citadel Dance Program, providing free dance education in ballet and tap to children and youth living in Regent Park.*

This list represents all donations made between January 2021 – September 2022. It has been updated as of October 15th, 2022. We apologize in advance for any omissions.

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