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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

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March 24-25, 2023 | 8pm | The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance
March 25 | 8pm performance also being live-streamed at citadelcie.com

vagabon, vakabon, et al | Rodney Diverlus

Salat Hawwaa' [Eve's Prayer] | Meryem Alaoui

-15 minute intermission -

whispers | wind in the leaves collective

Running time approximately 1 hour 30mins

Citadel + Compagnie

Artistic Director: Laurence Lemieux

General Manager: Kaitlin Standeven*

Production Manager: Marianna Rosato

Artistic Producer: Mateo G. Torres

Citadel Live Coordinator: Sierra Chin Sawdy

Financial Director: Simon Rossiter

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*on maternity leave

wind in the leaves collective

Artistic Director: charles c smith

Project Coordinator: Jillia Cato

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: Adam Achacon

House Technician: Matthew Maaskant

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 second of three programs we're presenting in collaboration with Citadel + Compagnie and Atlantic Ballet. 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 2022-23 season. i particularly wish to thank Laurence Lemieux for her vision and support and the Citadel team of Marianna Rosato, Sharon DiGenova, and Andrew McCormack for coordinating rehearsal space, promoting this series and handling tech.

i particularly wish to reference here the meaningful relationship between the Citadel and the Indigenous organization, Council Fire, that is its neighbour just around the corner. to me, the Citadel goes beyond a Land Acknowledgement through this relationship by giving space to Council Fire to make use of for their various programs, in particular for their children's dance program, First Fire. Such a relationship is something worth noting and for other venues to emulate.

and now, a word about tonight's performances. as is the focus of this performance series, each includes poetry/spoken word in dance. this reflects the *collective's* aesthetic practice whose roots trace through the african griot tradition, the harlem renaissance, and the black arts movement. such an approach to poetry and performance is shared by many cultures and, under the title *tongues entwined*, this series shares the commonalities and differences between performers, their heritage and artistic practice, and how these connect to ancestral visions in the contemporary and touch upon the social issues of our times.

in this context, i'm pleased the *collective* is sharing this evening with Rodney Diverlus and Meryem Alaoui, two wonderful artists whose work you will find compelling. these two join us using words, movement and music or, as we call it, tongues entwined

Rodney will perform *vagabon, vakabon, et al* which is a character study where the performer switches and chips, slithers and flaunts simply and fervently. This is the entrance of a provocateur restrained, a fixture moults, spills out of bondage.

Meryem is performing **Salat Hawwaa' [Eve's Prayer]** which is a new solo inspired by devotional dance, incantations and breathing practices of various Sufi devotee groups in Morocco. The solo is a reinterpretation of these practices through the lens of her Western contemporary dance and performance training.

the *collective's* artists will perform *whispers*, a work originally choreographed by Kevin A. Ormsby and Lilia Leon and with music composed by Judith Manger, now reimagined by Claire Whitaker and Bakari Lindsay with Walter Maclean, Daniel Hamin Go and me. *whispers* presents a journey to self-discovery through the veils of Blackness.



vagabon, vakabon, et al | Rodney Diverlus

Choreographed + Performed by: Rodney Diverlus

Music: *Hernia* by Kazumoto Endo, *MOB TIES* by TeraphoniQue, DNZL444,
Black Focus by Yussef Kamaal

Projection Design by: Drifnote

Dramaturgy/Outside Eye/Collaborator: Supreme- Jaz 'Fairy J' Simone

Costume Design by: Diseiye

A character study. They switch and chip, slither and flaunt; simply and fervently. A provocateur restrained, a fixture moults, spills out of bondage.....good evening, good evening, good evening, good evening, good evening, good evening, good evening...

Salat Hawwaa' [Eve's Prayer] | Meryem Alaoui

Choreographed + Performed by: Meryem Alaoui

Music by: Hatim Belyamani of Remix Culture

Meryem is performing a new solo inspired by devotional dance, incantations and breathing practices of various Sufi devotee groups in Morocco and women-led popular dance and singing traditions from Morocco. The solo is a reinterpretation of these practices through the lens of her Western contemporary dance and performance training.

- 15 minute intermission -

whispers | wind in the leaves collective

Original Choreography by: Kevin A. Ormsby and Lilia Leon

Reimagined by: Bakari Lindsay and Claire Whitaker

Performers: Daniel Hamin Go, Walter McClean, Charles C. Smith, and Claire Whitaker

Live Music by: Daniel Hamin Go (cello) and Walter McClean (percussion)

Set Design by: the wind in the leaves collective

Costume Design by: the wind in the leaves collective

The collective's artists will perform *whispers*, a work originally choreographed by Kevin A. Ormsby and Lilia Leon and with music composed by Judith Manger, now reimagined by Claire Whitaker and Bakari Lindsay. *whispers* presents a journey to self-discovery through the veils of Blackness.

Meet the Artists



Artistic Director of Jasad Dance Projects, **MERYEM ALAOUI** is a dancer-choreographer from Morocco, living in Toronto. Her work is often an invitation towards a softer and sensorial experience of dance. A graduate of the School of TDT, she has danced for multiple choreographers, including Amanda Acorn. Her choreographic works have been shown in Ontario and Quebec. In 2019, she created a solo for Sonia Rodriguez, principal dancer at the NBoC. Meryem has received residency support nationally and internationally, and funding from the CCA, the OAC and the TAC. She also enjoys being involved in arts-education and community arts projects.



DISEIYE Thompson is a Nigerian-Toronto fashion and costume designer who specializes in luxury evening wear. Diseiye has interned and worked for industry professionals like Susan Dicks & Co, Greta Constantine & Lea-Ann Belter where they have honed their design and tailoring skills. Their two finished collections, "Death in Wonderland" and "Sacrilegious Love" have been showcased at Fashion Art Toronto, and Toronto Women's Fashion Week. As well, Diseiye has designed for local grassroots movements, including Black Lives Matter – Toronto and Toronto Freedom School. More at diseiye.com



RODNEY DIVERLUS (they/them) is a Haitian-Canadian multi-hyphenate art-maker whose practice straddles modalities, and they create works in dance, theatre, film, opera, multidisciplinary performance, and public arts-based political interventions. Described by the Toronto Star as "one of Toronto's fastest rising dance talents," Rodney recently debuted Dora-nominated '*welcome, we've been waiting*' for Toronto Dance Theatre and has created choreographic works for Tapestry Opera, Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre, Tapestry Opera, Toronto Metropolitan University, Tableau d'Hôte Theatre, Art Gallery of Ontario, SummerWorks Festival, Irie Music Festival, and has interpreted works by Stratford Festival, Holla Jazz, Canadian Stage, Luminato Festival, Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, KasheDance, the Wind in the Leaves Collective, to name a few. Beyond their artistic practice, they moonlight as a community activator and writer. They are a co-founder of Black Lives Matter—Canada and the Wildseed Centre for Art & Activism.

Meet the Artists



As a passionate recitalist and chamber musician, **DANIEL HAMIN GO** has performed throughout North America and Europe collaborating with renowned musicians including Jonathan Biss, Miriam Fried, Ida Kavafian, Daniel Phillips, Rachel Podger, Wolfgang Redik, and Fazil Say; appearing in concert halls such as Berliner Philharmonie, Cadogan, Carnegie, Flagey Studios, and Konzerthaus Berlin. Daniel finds inspiration in working with artists as Steven Isserlis, Ferenc Rados, and Rita Wagner, with invitations to festivals such as Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival, IMS Prussia Cove, Krzyzowa Music, Mendelssohn on Mull, Music Academy of the West, Ravinia's Steans Institute of Music, Tsinandali Festival, and Yellow Barn.

Daniel pursued his Bachelor of Music at the Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of Julia Lichten and David Geber, Master of Music at the Hochschule für Musik 'Hanns Eisler' Berlin in the class of Nicolas Altstaedt, and as a recipient of the prestigious Bicentenary Award and the Drake Calleja Trust Award, Daniel completed an Advanced Diploma at the Royal Academy of Music. During the 2021-22 season, Daniel was an artist-in-residence at the coveted Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel working closely with Gary Homan. During the 2022-23 season, Daniel holds a fellowship position at the Royal Conservatory of Music's Rebanks Family Fellowship and International Residency Program.

Daniel plays on a Cremonese cello made in 1690 by Francesco Rugeri, generously on loan from a private collection.



BAKARI IFASEGUN LINDSAY has been perfecting his crafts for the past 35 years. He is a dancer, choreographer, singer, musician, costume designer/maker and researcher. Bakari holds a craftsman diploma in Style and Design, Masters Degree in Dance Ethnology and Bachelors in Education, from York University, Canada. In completion of his masters thesis BaKari researched and developed "A-Feeree – The Physical Language," an innovative training method for dance practitioners working in an Africanist movement aesthetic.

He co-founded COBA Collective Of Black Artists in 1993, and danced for the Danny Grossman Dance Company (Canada), Jubilation Dance Co (USA), Toronto Dance Theatre (Canada), Artcho Danse Repertoire (Haiti) and several independent choreographers in Canada, the United States and the Caribbean. BaKari also appeared as an original cast member of Disney's The Lion King from 2000 to 2002. BaKari was nominated for Dora Mavor Award for Best Male Dance Performance in 2017.

Meet the Artists



WALTER MACLEAN was born in Germany to a Ghanaian father and a German mother. He grew up in Germany and Ghana, and started to play percussion as a child when his family lived in Ghana in the 70's. He has been a professional musician since the age of 17. Over the years he has studied with many masters of rhythm such as Adja Addy, NippyNoya and Rick Gratton. Walter has been living in Toronto, Canada since 1996 and is known to be a versatile and consummate musician. He has played traditional African music for the likes of Ballet Creole, COBA, Lua Shayenne, Newton Moreas, Alpha Rhythm Roots, Amadou Kienou etc.; and has worked extensively with contemporary styles as well, from jazz and blues to calypso, R&B, and much more; collaborating with Kobot-Town, Donne Roberts, African Guitar Summit, Laura Hubert, Kingsley Etienne Trio, Dave West Group, Thriller Canada Tribute Band, Madagascar Slim, to name just a few.

Since 2014, Walter has also worked and collaborated with wind in the leaves collective on numerous performances and recordings.



CHARLES C. SMITH is a poet, playwright and essayist who has written and edited fourteen books. He studied poetry and drama with William Packard at New York University and Herbert Berghof Studios, drama at the Frank Silvera's Writers' Workshop in Harlem.

He won second prize for his play *Last Days for the Desperate* from Black Theatre Canada, edited three collections of poetry and his poetry has appeared in numerous journals and magazines, including Poetry Canada Review, the Quille and Quire, Descant, Dandelion, Fiddlehead and others. He has received grants for writing from the Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts. Charles is the Executive Director of Cultural Pluralism in the Arts Movement Ontario and Artistic Director of the wind in the leaves collective. His recent books include: *travelogue of the bereaved*, *The Dirty War: The Making of the Myth of Black Dangerousness*, *whispers* and *destination out*. His most recent book of poems, *Searching for Eastman*, was released in September 2021 by Mawanzi House.

Meet the Artists



SHARON DIGENOVA is a Production Stage Manager and award-winning Lighting Designer, who began her career in a Broadway touring house in Massachusetts, where she worked in all aspects of technical theatre on numerous Tony Award winning productions. She has since been engaged in many capacities in a multitude of disciplines – designing for dance, theatre, multi-media, circus and even freak shows, and stage-managing music venues, producing dance, running her own venue, and touring internationally to over 350 cities (several times over) in more than 30 countries throughout North & South America, Europe, Australia, Asia and the Far East. She has collaborated with scores of National artists, companies and festivals ranging from The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Co to Lua Shayenne Dance Co., and Canada's internationally acclaimed Holy Body Tattoo. She has also lit numerous international festivals and artists including the IABD (International Association of Blacks in Dance) Conference, The Toronto International Tap Festival, as well as Artists who include: multi award winning dancer Patricia Guerrero and Flamenco master, Joaquin Grilo.



ANDREW MCCORMACK began working with Citadel + Compagnie as a dancer in 2014, after graduating from Toronto Metropolitan 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 2018-2021. Andrew has since branched out into other aspects of technical work and design. Working as a Lighting Designer for various contemporary dance choreographers and Indie bands, recently working on *Rock of Ages* as an Assistant Lighting Designer. He continues to dance and explore all aspects of live entertainment such as lighting operation, audio engineering and rigging.



CLAIRE WHITAKER is a freelance dance artist based in Toronto. After graduating from The School of Toronto Dance Theatre, her class did a residency with La Escuela Profesional de Danza de Mazatlán in Mexico. Claire attended the Gaga Intensive at Orsolina 28, TransFormation Danse and online Dance Church classes organized by Kate Wallich. Claire has worked and performed under Colleen Snell (Fringe, 2018), Citadel + Compagnie (2019-22), and Kylie Thompson (Fringe, 22) and is a member of the wind in the leaves collective. Most recently, Claire has been collaborating with two collective artists in curating social events around poetry and dance.



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 – December 2022. It has been updated as of December 31st, 2022. We apologize in advance for any omissions.

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