

MAR 6-8 / 2025

SISTER NIGHTLIGHT



CITADEL
LIVE **24/25**

LIVE SOLO PERFORMANCE
ACCOMPANIED BY
FILM SCREENINGS OF:
/ SYZYGY
/ ONE KIND FAVOR
/ POTRERO HILL
(WALKING WITH SARA)

CITADELCIE.COM

SISTER NIGHTLIGHT

March 6-8, 8pm | The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance

CO-PRESENTED WITH GEORGE STAMOS

Choreographer/Text/Sound Designer George Stamos
(including work by Alva Noto and Blixa
Bargeld)/Performer

Original Lighting Designer Andrew Manera
Lighting Design Adapted by Eliajah Stefura
Costumes Antonio Ortega
Outside Eyes Kimberly Cooper, Robin Poitras,
Fiqri Ramli

This live performance will be accompanied by film screenings of:

Syzygy

Featuring performers Louise Lecavalier, Rémy Saminadin, George Stamos

One Kind Favor

Featuring performers Karla Etienne, George Stamos

Potrero Hill (Walking with Sara)

Featuring performers Sara Shelton Mann, George Stamos

Running time of films – 15 minutes

Running time of live performance – 45 minutes

No intermission

This performance uses haze



“*Sister Nightlight* is a thank you to all the glowing sisters who’ve shone their light in the dark.”

-George Stamos



Edging toward luminosity, *Sister Nightlight* is a conversation between minimalism and magic, a soliloquy balancing at the tip of a crack, peering toward illumination. In his new solo, Stamos entwines storytelling, Queer cruising techniques and dance with supernatural humour and vulnerability. *Sister Nightlight* dives into a space between memory, feral imagination, and actuality, where Stamos reflects on the following questions: How can ideas about magic and kinship inform his connection to the audience? How can a live encounter invite viewers into imaginative portals of delight and intimacy? What's most important as we gather to share a dance and a story?

George Stamos would like to thank New Dance Horizons, Citadel + Compagnie, Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, Agora de la danse, Dance Arts Institute, Zab Maboungou/Compagnie Danse Nyata Nyata, Never Apart Gallery, Oboro Production Studio, the Canada Council for the Arts, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Compañía Carmen Romero, and all collaborators for their support.



Syzygy

Syzygy (si.zuh.jee) is an abstract dance film following flashy club creatures on a playful cinematic search for fun. In psychology, "syzygy" describes integrating different aspects of the self, such as the conscious and unconscious, the masculine and feminine, or the rational and irrational. In astrology, a syzygy is a straight-line configuration of three celestial bodies, such as the sun, moon, and earth, during a solar or lunar eclipse, so it's totally cosmic.

Performers	Louise Lecavalier, Rémy Saminadin, George Stamos
Assistant Director/Shoot Director	Sonya Stefan
Director of Photography/Camerawork	Teagan Lance, Maxime Pelletier-Huot
Wigs	Stephane Scotto
Costumes	Antonio Ortega
Makeup Artist	Joffrey Dumas
Lighting Design	Josée Brouillard
Drummer	Rémy Saminadin
Original Drum Recording Mixer	Roger White
Editorial Consultant	Alison Murray
Director/Screenwriter/ Editor/Sound Designer	George Stamos

Thank you to Never Apart Gallery, Agora de la danse, Oboro Production Studio, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, Citadel + Compagnie, and the Syzygy collaborators for making this work possible.

One Kind Favor

This short dance film is partially inspired by the Blues song *See That My Grave Is Kept Clean*, also known as *One Kind Favor*, recorded by Blind Lemon Jefferson (1928). This film marries stark, moving images expressing solidarity between the players with the haunting song *Dead Man Singing* in a space between bottled-up rage, sorrow, and the question of kindness in the face of injustice.

“The measure of true kindness — which is different from nicety, different from politeness — is often revealed in those challenging instances when we must rise above the impulse toward its opposite, ignited by fear and anger and despair.”

Maria Popova, Marginalian Podcast

	Performers	Karla Etienne, George Stamos
Director of Photography/Camerawork		Maxime Pelletier-Huot
	Music	Dead Man Singing written by Patrick Duff, vocals Little Annie, music Paul Wallfisch
	Editorial Consultant	Alison Murray
	Creative Contributor	Sara Shelton Mann
Director/Costumes/Screenwriter/Editor		George Stamos

Thank you to the Canada Council for the Arts, Le Conseil des arts de Montréal and all collaborators for their support.

Special thanks to Sara Shelton Mann for her creative contribution.

Potrero Hill (Walking with Sara)

This short dance film features soft, puckish, intimate interactions in lush foliage, accompanied by voice work inviting the viewer into the journey. Inspired by childhood memories of time spent in nature with friends while tuning into the fifth dimension, *Potrero Hill (Walking with Sara)* is an intergenerational communion infused with love and mutual support.

Performers	Sara Shelton Mann, George Stamos
Director of Photography/Camerawork	Chani Bockwinkel
Editorial Consultant	Alison Murray
Director/Editor/Sound Designer	George Stamos

This work was created with the support of RT Collective (rtcollective.ca) and the financial assistance of the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts.
Special thanks to Sara Shelton Mann for her teachings and generosity.



I am a contemporary dance artist and filmmaker. My works invite reflection on aspects of the human condition and connections between personal and universal, metaphysical and physical. Major threads through my body of work are resilience, resistance, play, and transformation. I'm interested in the unique and contrasting qualities of human sensations; in nuancing the practical performativity of daily life. My work spans across the genres of Surreal-Experimental, LGBTQ+ Cinema, Road Movies and Documentary. I imagine my body/mind as a library, a place of prediction and incantations that infuse my work with ordinary magic.

George Stamós



Kimberley Cooper is the Artistic Director of Decidedly Jazz Danceworks (DJD), where she has been a key creative force since 1989. She has choreographed over 20 full-length works, including *Family of Jazz* (Jacob's Pillow, 2023) and *suspending disbelief* (Lincoln Center, 2024). A Dance Victoria Crystal Dance Prize recipient, she also contributes to academic research on jazz dance.

Karla Etienne is the Executive Director of the Canadian Dance Assembly and guest curator at Mandoline Hybride, a dance organization based in Gaspésie. She is a dance artist who has worked with Zab Maboungou/Compagnie Danse Nyata Nyata for more than 20 years. The first graduate of the organization's Programme de formation et d'entraînement artistique et professionnel en danse (PEFAPDA) and an accomplished dancer. Karla has been a part of Zab Maboungou's major works and collaborated as a dancer in projects by George Stamos, Kimberley de Jong, Katya MONTAIGNAC, Sophie Corriveau and Priscilla Guy.

Louise Lecavalier Dancer and choreographer Louise Lecavalier worked with Édouard Lock and La La La Human Steps from 1981 to 1999, a period of exceptional intensity punctuated by works that have since become mythical along with scintillating collaborations (David Bowie, Frank Zappa...). Her extreme dance, filled with a fiery energy, caught the imagination of a whole generation. Since founding her own company, Fou glorieux, in 2006, her movement research has been emblematic of her whole career, emphasizing the surpassing of limits and risk-taking.

Andrew Manera is an Instructor in the Theatre Department at the Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance at the University of Regina, specializing in technical production and stage management. A seasoned arts administrator, he has held key roles at the Globe Theatre, Regina Symphony Orchestra, and Canadian Heritage. As founder of Artesian Performing Arts Inc., he has championed emerging artists and community-driven arts initiatives.

Antonio Ortega pursued his passion for Haute Couture in Paris, studying at Chardon Savard and working with Dominique Sirop. In 2004, he launched his own label, showcasing designs in New York, Montreal, Milan and Toronto. His Fall-Winter 2014–15 collection debuted during Paris Haute Couture Week, featuring fluid silhouettes, romantic embroideries, and modern cuts.

Robin Poitras C.M. is a leading Saskatchewan-based dance and performance creator. Active since the early '80s, she co-founded New Dance Horizons in 1986 and remains its Artistic Director. A recipient of the Order of Canada (2021) and multiple lifetime achievement awards, she continues to innovate in dance and performance art, and her interdisciplinary works have been presented internationally.

Fiqri Ramli is a self-taught visual designer with an academic background in Biology and artistic interests in the intersection of Queer dance practices and metaphysical mysticism. *Sister Nightlight* is his first contemporary dance project.

Rémy Saminadin is a drummer from Guadeloupe, based in Montreal. The gwoka, a traditional instrument, introduced him to music at the age of 6. Later, he moved to France to study jazz drumming at the Hector Berlioz Conservatory. Since moving to Montreal in 2011, Rémy has worked with Greg Noël, Future Flight, BodySlam, Helen Simard, George Stamos, and Company Forward Movement.

Sara Shelton Mann has created a substantial body of work over a 55-year career as a dancer and choreographer. From 1979 to 1996, She directed the internationally renowned San Francisco-based company Contraband in a series of unique, immersive performances that came to represent a Bay Area performance aesthetic. Her work is deeply collaborative and interdisciplinary, with a focus on weaving stories, experiences, and provocations into improvisational movement scores and a deep commitment to experimenting with new methods and mediums for presenting dance.

Elijah Stefura (He/Him) is a theatre technician working in the city of Toronto. He began working professionally in the industry after his graduation from Toronto Metropolitan University in 2019. Eli joined the Citadel team as Technical Director in 2021.

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 plays host to a range of presentation platforms and residency programs for some of Canada's most interesting choreographers and dance companies. It is also the home of the Citadel Dance Program, providing free dance education to local children and youth, and neighbour Toronto Council Fire's Indigenous dance program, First Fire.

Compagnie de la Citadelle is the professional dance company within Citadel + Compagnie. Founded in 2000, the Compagnie is known for its creative processes and intimate performances of classic works and new creations. Through remount initiatives, the Compagnie also dedicates itself to the preservation of important Canadian dance work, making available iconic repertoire to a new generation of dance artists.

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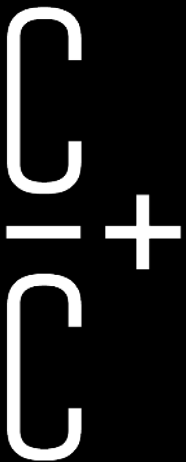
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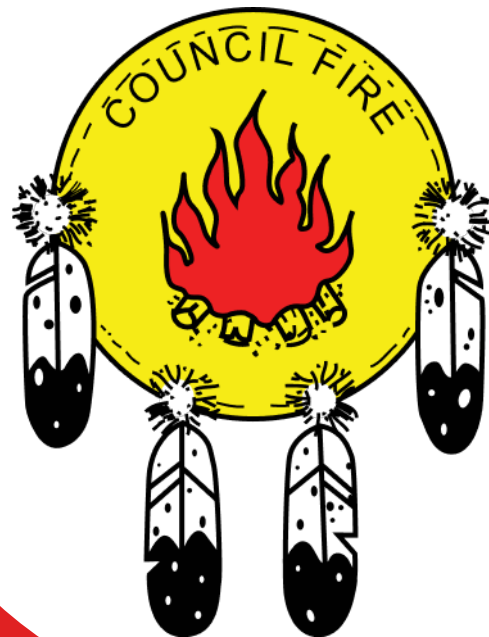
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