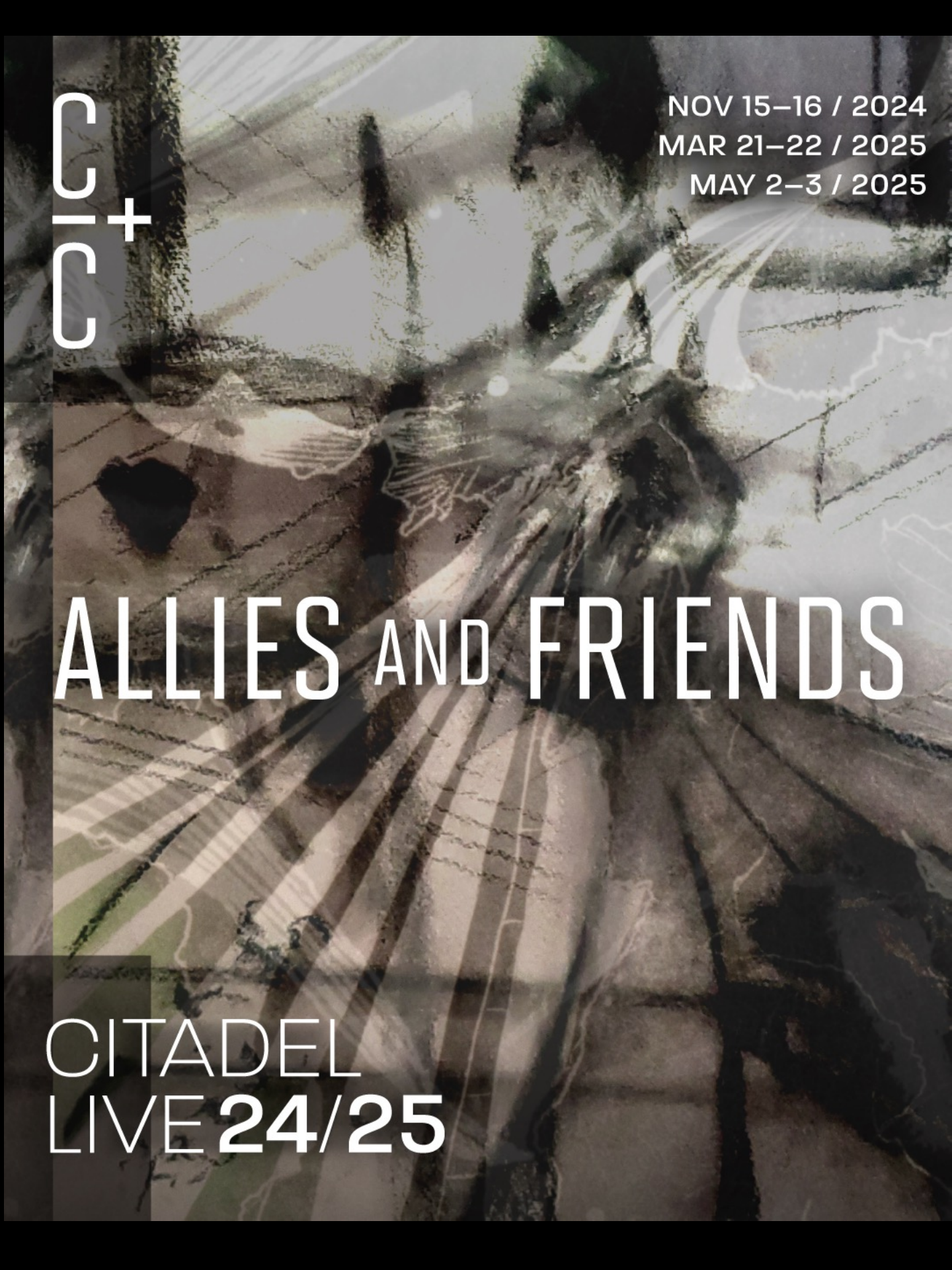




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NOV 15–16 / 2024
MAR 21–22 / 2025
MAY 2–3 / 2025

ALLIES AND FRIENDS

CITADEL
LIVE **24/25**

wind in the leaves collective presents
allies and friends

March 21 + 22, 2025 | 8pm | The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance

Surrendered Spirits

Concept, Choreography, Direction and Performance:
Nickeshia Garrick, Irma Villafuerte

-15-minute intermission -

Jérémie, au coeur de ma vie.

Choreographer, musician, singer, performer: Emilie 'Zila' Jabouin

The Playful Instinct

Concept, Text, Direction: Dave Wilson, Artistic Director
Choreography: Sarah di Iorio, Alexander Herrera, Falciony Patino,
Ranganathan Rajan, Dave Wilson, Soraya Lee Wo, Mina Zaghari

Audience Warning – this production uses haze.
Running time approximately 1 hour 30 mins

wind in the leaves collective

Artistic Director: charles c. smith
Producer: Jenny McCowan
Project Coordinator: Jillia Cato
Social Media Coordinator: Claire Whitaker

allies and friends

Production Stage Manager: Sharon DiGenova
Lighting Designer: Eliajah Stefura

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 second 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 2024-2025 season. encouraged by our previous seasons, this season is curated to showcase a mix of IBPOC and allied artists working in diverse aesthetic 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 evening we're honoured to present:

Surrendered Spirits is an inter-multidisciplinary duet that excavates our shared reflection on memories of childhood fractures and joys. The work is inspired by the impact of familial displacement and our upbringing as children of racialized, marginalized and immigrant families. Interwoven through dance and cultural memory.

Jérémie, au cœur de ma vie. explores Les Vêpres, a massacre enacted under Haitian dictator Duvalier, in Jérémie, 1964. This unsilenced story seeks to humanize those massacred and release an emotional burden to prevent such events from happening in the future, while celebrating young people's expressions of solidarity, hope, joy, and resistance to daily hardships.

The Playful Instinct charts three creatures who cross paths and decide to play, all of it witnessed by a Creatrix of Light. Who are these strangely moving life forms? Like most animals, their play can be nurturing, fun, or take on a more aggressive twist. There is no winner, but simply the coexistence of all. Nature, Tech and Spirit collide, in a game with a Referee.

i hope you enjoy these exciting performances and that you'll check out our other work coming up in the next few months!

all the very best



Surrendered Spirits

Concept, Choreography, Direction and Performance:

Nickeshia Garrick, Irma Villafuerte

Dramaturgy: Dedra McDermott

Sound Design and Co-Composition: Brandon Valdivia

Costume Design: CinnaMoon Collective

Surrendered Spirits is an inter-multidisciplinary duet that excavates our shared reflection on memories of childhood fractures and joys. The work is inspired by the impact of familial displacement and our upbringing as children of racialized, marginalized and immigrant families.

It is fueled by our deep connection to one another and our journey seeking outlets to contextualize our lived experiences through the lens of QIBPOC bodies. Imagine a world where we heal inter-generational wounds through collective care and value ourselves and hold unconditional space for queer womxn of colour. A place where we can explore the truths behind the childhood stories that have influenced our perception of the world. *Surrendered Spirits* is this desired world brought to life through physical, emotional and spiritual virtuosity, all through soulful melodies and haunting rhythms.

Acknowledgements

A Co-Commission by Curatorial and
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dance Immersion and Kaeja d'Dance
Timea Wharton-Suri
Karen and Allen Kaeja

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Kaeja d'Dance
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Ontario Arts Council

CinnaMoon Collective, founded by Irma Villafuerte and Nickeshia Garrick, is a Central American and Afro-Caribbean contemporary dance duo dedicated to reclaiming ancestral stories through a decolonial lens. Their work centers Black, Indigenous, and racialized femme-presenting queer bodies, with a mission to ignite healing and magnify silenced voices. They premiered their immersive dance-theatre piece *Surrendered Spirits* in 2024, earning two Dora Mavor Moore nominations. Their journey includes residencies at Centro de Arte para la Paz and Aluna Theatre, connecting cultural memory and identity through movement and storytelling.

Jérémie, au coeur de ma vie.

Choreographer, musician, singer, performer: Emilie 'Zila' Jabouin

Cuban percussionist: Reimundo Sosa

Performers: Emilie 'Zila' Jabouin, Shelly Ann McLeod, Aisha Nicholson

Live Music arrangement: Emilie Jabouin

Jérémie, au cœur de ma vie. explores Les Vêpres, a massacre enacted under Haitian dictator Duvalier, in Jérémie, 1964. This unsilenced story seeks to humanize those massacred and release an emotional burden to prevent such events from happening in the future, while celebrating young people's expressions of solidarity, hope, joy, and resistance to daily hardships.

The Playful Instinct

Concept, Text, Direction: Dave Wilson, Artistic Director

Choreography: Sarah di Iorio, Alexander Herrera, Falciony Patino, Ranganathan Rajan, Dave Wilson, Soraya Lee Wo, Mina Zaghari

Performers: Alexander Herrera, Falciony Patino, Ranganathan Rajan, Mina Zaghari

Music: Adrienne Frailey, Sugai Ken

Three creatures cross paths and decide to play, all of it witnessed by a Creatrix of Light. Who are these strangely moving life forms? Like most animals, their play can be nurturing, fun, or take on a more aggressive twist. There is no winner, but simply the coexistence of all. Nature, Tech and Spirit collide, in a game with a Referee.

A beating chest, pumped up to be the best

Mandrill lines of a snarling jaw

The glinty eyes fooled me not

Oh what a soft paw

Artistic Director, Dave Wilson's company **The Parahumans** (founded 1992), is an interdisciplinary and experimental dance company, with a main focus on Post-Contemporary Dance. The company has toured England and performed across Ontario at many venues. Novel productions have included: *The 77 Minute Improv*, *21 Chopin Nocturnes*, *Plato Was A Raver*, and a reconstruction of Hokusai's 1880s dances, *How To Teach Yourself Solo Dancing*. The 47-minute dance documentary, *Boy Dancer*, received the Fan's Choice Award at the New York Long Island film festival (2011). Besides training in Laban methodology since his UK childhood, Dave trained in Toronto with Til Thiel (Centre for Movement) and Linda Rubin in Vancouver (Synergy). His M.A from York University has a focus on Somatics/Dance.

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.



SARAH DI IORIO is a movement artist holding a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Toronto Metropolitan University. She has performed at dance festivals such as Jacob's Pillow and Le Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur and toured with Red Sky Performance across North America. Her recent work, *Meet You At The Surface*, debuted in the Night Shift 2024 festival, co-presented by Citadel + Compagnie and Fall For Dance North. Recently, Sarah performed in ProArteDanza's *The 9th!*, touring Ontario. She has showcased her creativity in works by Angela Blumberg, Hanna Kiel, Canadian Stage, Dusk Dances, The Parahumans and Little Pear Garden. She has taught at performing arts high schools in the GTA, and choreographed in residency for professional and pre-professional artists in Toronto.

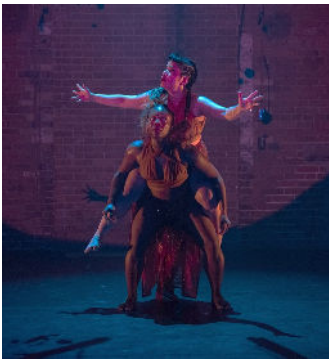


Photo: Kevin Jones

NICKESHIA GARRICK is a Black, Queer artist and settler on the stolen land of Tkarón:to (Toronto), where they have performed for over 25 years. Rooted in the healing power of breath, raw emotion, and movement, Nickeshia's artistry is unapologetically authentic. They trained at NYIDE, the National Ballet School of Canada, Toronto Dance Theatre, and Simon Fraser University, where they earned a BFA in Dance. Their classical vocal and theatre foundation comes from Eastwood Collegiate Institute in Kitchener. Nickeshia is certified in Sean McLeod's Reinforced Motor Function Technique® and has worked with esteemed mentors such as Bakari E. Lindsay and Christopher House. They've performed with TDT, Kaeja d'Dance, Ballet Jörgen, and Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, among others. A Dora Mavor Moore-winning artist and Co-Founder of CinnaMoon Collective, Nickeshia recently received Dora nominations for *Surrendered Spirits*. Currently, they are DanceWorks' inaugural Fellow, developing *The Ties that Bind Us, The Ties that Bond Us*.



ALEXANDER HERRERA is a dancer, choreographer, and educator from Chiapas, Mexico. He graduated from the Universidad Autónoma de Chiapas. He has been part of companies such as Dramadanza by Rossana Filomarino, LaguDanza by Erika Méndez, and La Ópera Moctecuzoma by the Government of Mexico City. He has had the opportunity to collaborate on *Errante* by Sheila Rojas, *Danza Alternativa* by CONECULTA, and *Escénica Obra Negra* by Zaira Lobato. His greatest satisfaction lies in capturing the identity, culture, and events of Chiapas. Currently, in Toronto he has collaborated with Little Pear Garden Dance Company, Newton Moraes Dance Theatre, The Parahumans, and projects with Casa Maíz Cultural Centre. He is the founder of the MxM Encuentro de Danza Contemporánea project, creating residencies in Mexico.



EMILIE "ZILA" JABOUIN is a dance artist, researcher, and communications scholar whose work focuses on social transformation, liberation and healing. With Haitian folklore (drum, dance, song) as a foundation, her artwork stands as social commentary with a historical lens. Her performance in Turner's award-winning art-installation, *NAVE* (2022), further forged her unique voice in research and art-making. In 2020, Emilie founded Do Gwe dance & research company, a research, performance, consulting and production company. Emilie's future dance projects include, *The Release*, a full-length piece about interrupted pregnancies and an historical piece celebrating pre-Harlem Renaissance black women performers in Canada.
@zila_danceandresearch

Born Trinbagonian, **SHELLY ANN MCLEOD** began formal dance training at age 11 with Les Enfants Dance Company. She has traveled the Caribbean representing Trinidad and Tobago at various dance festivals and teaching classes. She was awarded and accepted a scholarship from the University of the West Indies to read in the program of Dance and Dance Education in 2004. And again awarded and accepted another in 2006 from COBA (Collective of Black Artists). She took her pedagogy to Seneca College, and Toronto Film School as Dance and Movement Professor. She is now a Dance and movement Educator at Emery Collegiate Institute.

@Sakeyma

AISHA NICHOLSON is an Artist, Emerging Choreographer, Teacher and Reiki Practitioner that hails from Toronto; creator of the Movement CheckIn, a program that brings artists together on Instagram live. Aisha has worked with the Lua Shayenne Dance Company, Ronald Taylor Dance, Arsenio Andrade, COBA (Collective Of Black Artists), Ballet Creole and KasheDance to name a few. Aisha has performed in the Carifesta XIV festival in Trinidad and Tobago, with Obeah Opera for the Luminato Festival, and in South Africa. In 2021, she choreographed her first inaugural solo called *Abandonment*, which she is currently working on remounting.

@movementcheckin



Photo: Marvan Kwan

FALCIONY PATIÑO, born in Funza, Colombia, began his training in folk dance at the age of seven with the folkloric group Zaguesazipa. He studied contemporary dance at ASAB and was part of the folkloric group Orkeseos. In 2009, he moved to Toronto to join Ballet Creole. In 2012, he founded Cabildo, exploring a contemporary approach to Colombian folk dance. He has worked with companies such as Newton Moraes Dance, Kaha:Wi Dance Theatre, Red Sky Performance, and A'nó:wara Dance Theatre. A co-founder of Poporo Collective, he has also collaborated with Little Pear Garden Dance Company and The Parahumans. His career spans diverse styles, from Latin American folklore and contemporary dance to Afro-modern. In recent years, he has added training methods such as parkour, capoeira, and physical theatre.



RANGANATHAN RAJAN is originally from India and is currently based in Toronto. He is a performer and choreographer in contemporary dance, working innately with ideas of stress, resilience and strength in the body through object work, movement and mixed media. Ranganathan is a third-year student in the Professional Training Program at Dance Arts Institute, Canada and has completed a Diploma in Movement Art and Mixed Media from Attakkalari Center of Movement Arts in Bangalore, India. Ranganathan has worked with various choreographers such as Naishi Wang, Tanveer Alam, Mohammadreza Akrami, Elke Schroeder, Ashley Perez and Ryan Lee. He has performed in three shows with Parahumans Company, including *The Unveiling*, and an FFDN presenter showcase. He has presented a durational performance *Phase Colloid* in the 2024 Rhubarb Festival Toronto, and is currently engaged in creating a work titled, *Running Project*.

REIMUNDO SOSA is a Juno Award nominee, professional percussionist, composer, and educator living in Toronto, ON. Born in Havana Cuba, Reimundo began playing percussion in the street when he was just six years old. He became fascinated with Cuban folkloric music and began to study Rumba, Bata drums, the traditions of Santeria and the music of the Orishas. At ten years of age he participated in his first recording with a Cuba/France project called *P18*. At 19 years of age, Reimundo was given a contract with the folkloric company named *JJ*, and was soon classified as a musician of the first level. Immediately he began to travel to Martinique, and then moved to Canada in 2009.

@Reimundososa



ELIAJAH STEFURA (He/Him) is a technician in the city of Toronto. He began working professionally in the industry after his graduation from Toronto Metropolitan University in 2019. Eli joined the C+C team in 2021 and is now the Citadel's Technical Director, also acting as engineer of the company's livestream programming.



IRMA VILLAFUERTE is a Tkaronto-based dance artist, educator, and choreographer, and the first-generation daughter of refugees from Nahuat Territory Kuskatan, post-colonial El Salvador. She serves as Program Director of Native Earth's Animikiig Creators Lab and was a Toronto Arts Foundation 2021 Emerging Artist Finalist. A co-founder of CinnaMoon Collective, with Dora nominated work, *Surrendered Spirits*, in 2024. Irma has performed at prominent festivals including Night Shift, Fall for Dance North, The Rhubarb Festival, and internationally at the 12th Bienal de la Habana and Guantanamo's International Dance Meeting. She has collaborated with leading companies like Kaha:wi Dance Theatre and Jaberri Dance Theatre. Since 2017, she has honed her choreographic voice through residencies with Dance Makers and Aluna Theatre. Her works *Xilopango* and *Siwat Piedra* explore her passion for social justice and human rights. Irma also educates young dancers at Casa Maiz and the Toronto Film School.

Photo: Kevin Jones



SORAYA LEE WO is an emerging dance artist and dance teacher from Mississauga. She attended Cawthra Park Secondary School as a dance major, developing an understanding of the creative process while training in Limon Modern and continuing her R.A.D ballet training. She later joined the Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre (CCDT) in Toronto under the direction of Deborah Lundmark and Natasha Poon Woo. While at CCDT, Soraya completed her R.A.D Advanced One qualification and performed in works by Carol Anderson, Hanna Keil, Sasha Ivanochko, Giaconnda Barbuto, and Deborah Lundmark. Soraya is an Arts and Science student at McMaster University and on McMaster's award-winning competitive dance team. She is also director of programming for children with different abilities at Steel City Dance Company.



MINA ZAGHARI is an actor, writer, and physical theatre artist based in Toronto, originally from Iran. With a background in civil engineering, she pursued her passion for the performing arts and earned a graduate degree in Theatre Performance from Humber College. Her work spans acting, movement, devising, puppeteering, choreography, and writing, and collaborations with Cahoots Theatre, Paprika Festival, Tarragon Theatre, and Tirgan Theatre. She also teaches acting through workshops and coaching. Beyond performing and teaching, Mina shares insights on acting and creativity through her YouTube channel. As a professional handpan player, she incorporates rhythm and movement into her artistic practice.



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 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.

Citadel + Compagnie

Artistic Director: Laurence Lemieux

General Manager: Kaitlin Standeven*

Interim General Manager: Jake Ramos

Production Manager: Marianna Rosato

Programs Coordinator: Sierra Chin Sawdy

Audience Engagement + Box Office Coordinator: Rachana Joshi

Financial Director: Simon Rossiter

Administrative Assistant + Digital Producer: Juliette Coleman

Facility Manager + Outreach Coordinator: Kéïta Fournier-Pelletier

Technical Director: Eliajah Stefura

Bookkeeping: Morgyn Aronyk-Schell

Poster Design: Messenger

*on maternity leave

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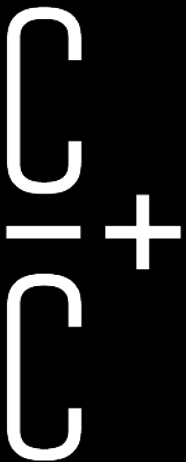
Terry Gardiner, Chair

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CREATE.
CURATE.
CULTIVATE.

Our Supporters

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!

Gretchen & Donald Ross	Felicia Ross
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Lindy Green Family Foundation	Gail Hutchison
Janice Lewis & Mitchell Cohen	Jerry & Joan Lozinski
Jim & Sandra Pitblado	Robin Vaile Robinson

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The 2024/25 season is generously supported by



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Night Shift 2024 is co-presented with Fall for Dance North

Citadel Dance Mix 2024 is presented in partnership with Dancemakers

Citadel Dance Exchange is presented in collaboration with The National Ballet of Canada's Creative Action Programme

Citadel LIVE is made possible with the support of The Metcalf Foundation Booster Fund

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*Monthly donor

This list represents all donations made between February 1, 2024 - February 28, 2025. It has been updated as of February 28, 2025. We apologize in advance for any omissions.



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OCT 16-18 / 2025

/NIGHTSHIFT/

CALL TO ARTISTS
APPLICATION DEADLINE:
APR 17 / 2025 11:59PM EDT

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE
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APR 2-12 / 2025

CITADEL DANCE EXCHANGE



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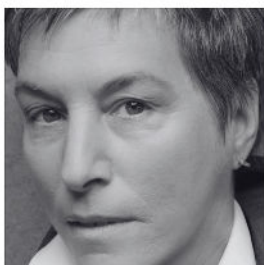
PHOTOGRAPH BY [illegible]

CITADEL DANCE EXCHANGE

WEEK 1 WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP

Marie-Andrée Gougeon



**FRIDAY
APRIL 4**

1PM-3PM @ THE CITADEL
PWYC (\$5 minimum)

In the form of exchange, we'll discuss the expectations, challenges and obstacles of promoting a choreographic performance and developing markets and audiences. Is there any ideal model to process in this specific journey?

WORKSHOP

Manu Roque



**SATURDAY
APRIL 5**

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
10AM-12PM @ THE CITADEL
\$30 with registration

This workshop is based on improvisation exercises exploring different systems of movement to allow freedom and singularity, using the notions of ground, weight, fluidity, vibration, speed, density... The practice is focused on attention (to ourself, the other(s) and the environment). To refine our observations and concentration, we use tools like duration, repetition, curiosity, generosity. How can we engage in awareness, with as much rigour as fun? How can we constantly renew the pleasure of movement and connections, and share it.

WEEK 2 WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP

Simon Rossiter



**FRIDAY
APRIL 11**

1PM-3PM @ THE CITADEL
PWYC (\$5 minimum)

Join Lighting Designer and Citadel Dance Exchange Lighting Director Simon Rossiter for a special 2-hour workshop. Learn more about the tools and systems that help illuminate your work on stage, from an expert with extensive experience in dance. This workshop will give you a great overview of lighting basics, with a focus on lighting design for dance.

Open to all levels of lighting design knowledge, and those in all fields (dance, lighting, production, etc.).

WORKSHOP

Sovann Rochon-Prom Tep



**SATURDAY
APRIL 12**

10AM-12PM @ THE CITADEL
\$30 with registration

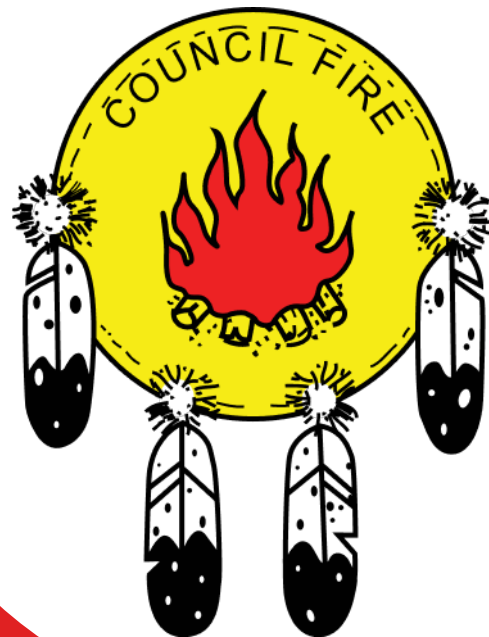
What it is? What it ain't?

Through guided explorations, Sovann provides a context for each participant to observe, test, or challenge their own practice. Desires, values, culture, vocabulary, history, and community are key words around which participants are invited to examine their relationship with dance.

Open to dancers (ages 18+) of any style and any level.

**CLICK ON A WORKSHOP
FOR INFO AND TICKETS**

TORONTO COUNCIL FIRE NATIVE CULTURAL CENTRE



Get to know our neighbours

Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre is one of many Aboriginal service providers in the Greater Toronto Area that work together to address the social, health, education, economic, and cultural needs of the Toronto urban Aboriginal population.

On an annual basis they interact with over 200,000 clients made up of youth, adults, seniors, and families who are established in the community or in transition.

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