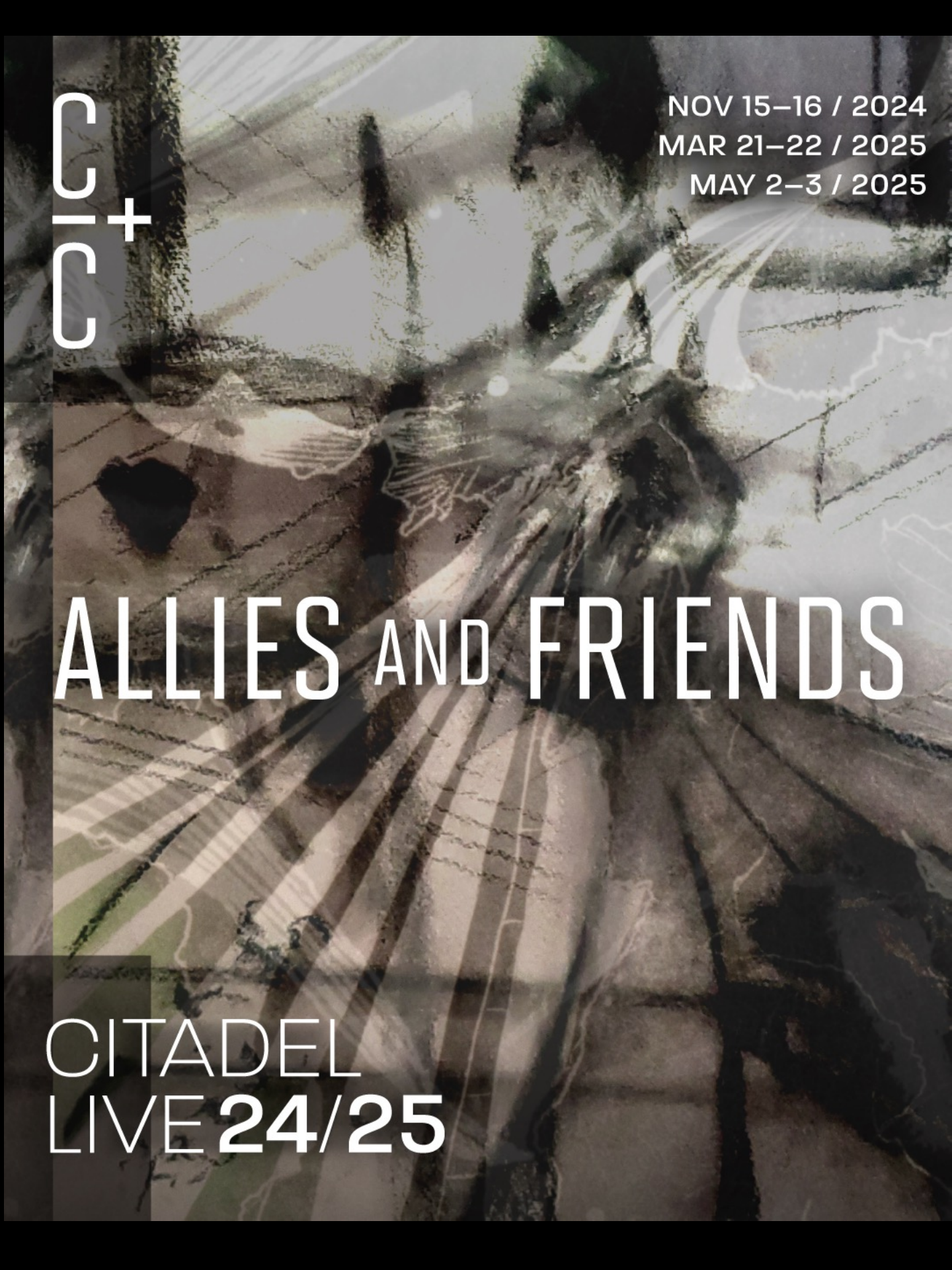




C
+
C

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

May 2 + 3, 2025 | 8pm | The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance

DO YOU FEEL HAPPY OF YOURSELF

Choreographer and Performer: Alli Carry

Poet: Morgan Tessier

Hypocrite's Dichotomy

Choreographer and Performer: Ranganathan Rajan

Writer and Performer: Anto Chan

-15-minute intermission -

In Quietness (work-in-progress)

Choreographer and Performer: Claire Whitaker

Poet and Performer: Maureen Hynes

Pianist: Ruth Kazdan

Audience Warning – this production uses haze.

Running time approximately 1 hour 10 mins

wind in the leaves collective

Artistic Director: charles c. smith

Producer: Jenny McCowan

Project Coordinator: Jillia Cato

Social Media Coordinator: Claire Whitaker

Administrator: Bia Rohde

Videographer: S'Quire Johnson

allies and friends

Production Stage Manager: Sharon DiGenova

Lighting Designer: Eliajah Stefura

Greetings

Well, here we are again. The end of another wonderful, powerful, moving and beautiful *allies and friends* season as presenter-in-residence at The Citadel! What an exciting adventure it has been to work out of this space and with such incredible artists, performances and those attending who are intrigued by the relationships, connections and intimacy between poetry and dance.

We started in November with MC², B. Solomon and Rumi Roaming, a poetic reflection on Rumi performed by Meryem Alaoui and me. We then moved on in March with Emilie Jabouin, The Parahumans and CinnaMoon Collective. Each of these performances brought a very unique form of expression that connected us to water, spirit, the calling of our ancestors and the performance of practices that derive from our histories and how we see ourselves in this world as Indigenous artists and artists of colour.

This brings us to our final performance and one of the important aspects of the 'wind in the leaves collective's' overall programming. One of our very enjoyable and compelling presentations happens at Mallo Bistro. We call it *Mallo Nights* and it takes place three times each year. Both last year and this year, we're honoured to invite artists who have performed at *Mallo Nights* to share the stage for our season ending performance.

For this, we have **Anto Chan** with **Ranganathan Rajan**; **Alli Carry** with **Morgan Tessier**; and **Claire Whitaker** with **Maureen Hynes** and **Ruth Kazdan**. While Claire and Ruth did not perform at *Mallo Nights*, Maureen was one of our first poets to read there! As well, Claire is one of the curators along with Ana Claudette Groppler and myself for *Mallo Nights*.

So, if they've performed before, what's the difference now? Well, the *Mallo Nights* performances were done with only the poetry as music and the dancers and poets who were paired with each other were meeting for the first time. Now, each of them know each much better, have been supported to spend more time rehearsing and can use whatever art forms – music, video – they wish to perform with poetry. This then presents an opportunity for them to grow as artists and to build on what they performed in the small space Mallo provides to this wonderful black box that is The Citadel.

Given what these artists have done in the past, our closing program is going to be fantastic and we're looking forward to presenting our next season's program starting in June and September with our collaboration with the Meaningful Movement, October for our IBPOC Touring Network Video Showcase with Fall for Dance North and Mallo Nights, and November returning to *allies and friends*.

We have a lot going on so stay tuned!!! (www.windintheleavescollective.com)

All the very best



DO YOU FEEL HAPPY OF YOURSELF

Choreographer and Performer: Alli Carry

Poet: Morgan Tessier

DO YOU FEEL HAPPY OF YOURSELF is a dance & poetry piece written and performed by Alli Carry and Morgan Tessier. This piece encapsulates the ultimate question: Do you put your shopping cart back? In a multi-part poem, we discuss the growing terror of the iPad Kid, good vs. evil in a grocery store parking lot, Mr. Beast learning to ride a bike, and an attempt to humanize the internet. Born from an evening of babysitting 3 iPad kids and watching Beast Games, *DO YOU FEEL HAPPY* requires the viewer to dig inside the part of themselves that existed before a screen, to hold empathy for the human existence over everything else. Morgan's obsession with the internet and necessary outdoor time is beautifully interpreted by the graceful and robotic movements of Alli, leaving both artists asking for less screen time and a little bit more kindness from everybody.

Special thanks to wind in the leaves & Mallo Nights

Hypocrite's Dichotomy

Choreographer and Performer: Ranganathan Rajan

Writer and Performer: Anto Chan

Directors: Anto Chan, Ranganathan Rajan

Through spoken word poetry, movement, dance, and improvised interdisciplinary performance, Anto and Ranganathan challenge themselves, each other, and the audience to confront the limitations of the human experience. Whether it's Art & Design, Spirituality & Religion, or Love & Romance, we have been forced to put boxes around the aesthetics and expansive nature of Art, Spirituality, & Love. With structured improvisation and curiosity in stage discovery, we make use of The Citadel's space by re-imagining it as the Queen's Court, a highly rigid, cold and uncomfortable venue, where mistakes are punished, and constricting movements are common.

In Quietness (work-in-progress)

Choreographer and Performer: Claire Whitaker

Poet and Performer: Maureen Hynes

Pianist: Ruth Kazdan

Music: John Cage - In a Landscape, Vanessa Amara

In Quietness is a work-in-progress movement and poetry piece that blossomed from the voice of Canadian poet and author Maureen Hynes. Accompanied by pianist Ruth Kazdan, the piece is inspired by three of Maureen's poems from her 2019 book, *'Sotto Voce'* (meaning in a quiet voice, as if not to be overheard); *'Inside my Quietness'*, *'Sotto Voce'* and *'Breathing Lessons'*. Melodic piano and a soft and tender voice act as a narrative drive to a delicate process of coming home to oneself. The movement is sotto voce—subtle, slow, almost unnoticeable. With an underlying quiet intent, the dance explores a reclaiming of the space within one's own skin, peeling away layers that once protected and to find self-trust.

"Inside my quietness is a breath caught in fear." - *Inside my Quietness*, Maureen Hynes

Special thanks to Citadel + Compagnie and Dance Arts Institute for the studio space. Thank you, Brayden Jamil Cairns for costume direction and wind in the leaves for connecting me with Maureen Hynes and Ruth Kazdan.

Meet the Artists



Alli Carry | Choreographer and Performer

Alli Carry is a Toronto-based emerging multidisciplinary dance artist. Her recent performance credits include Marina Robinson's *Unfurl* at the Toronto Fringe Festival, *Ball Pit* at dance: made in canada | fait au canada and Mallo Nights by wind in the leaves collective. Aside from performing as a dancer, Alli is inspired to explore her artistry and produce work through the mediums of choreography, film, photography, and theatre. Most recently, she participated in a two-week choreographic residency (Open Space) provided by The National Ballet of Canada. There she continued to develop her current choreographic work entitled *A subject*. Alli celebrates collaboration as a pillar for her art practice and creates work through a feminist lens. She aims to make work that is meaningful to a diverse audience while remaining authentic to her unique voice. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Performance Dance with distinction from TMU.

@alli_carry



Anto Chan | Writer and Performer

Anto is a Queer HK Chinese-Canadian spoken word performance artist, facilitator, mentor, producer, student and writer. He has toured across Canada and Asia featuring on Hong Kong Comedy Festival, Verses Festival of Words & T.O. Poetry Department's City Block Poetry. He is the founder of the Canada Council funded InnerGenerational and his album of the same name was just released during Replay Storytelling Festival 2025. He ran expressive art therapy groups with Queer Art Therapy like "the Art of Masculine" and "Getting Bi+". His life work centers on expansion, intersectionality, and self-love through the page, stage, and community.

@antopunfu



Sharon Digenova | Production Stage Manager

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.



Maureen Hynes | Poet and Performer

Maureen Hynes lives in Dish with One Spoon territory/Toronto, and is the author of six collections of poetry, the most recent being 2023's *Take the Compass*, from McGill-Queen's University Press. Her first collection won the League of Canadian Poets' Gerald Lampert Award and following books have been finalists for the League's Raymond Souster Award, and twice for the Pat Lowther Award, as well as the Golden Crown Literary Award for lesbian writers (U.S). Her poetry has been included in over 30 anthologies, including three times in Best Canadian Poems in English, and in Best of the Best Canadian Poetry.

Photo: Marion Voisey



Ruth Kazdan | Pianist

Ruth Kazdan has been performing in Toronto for many years. She loves to play contemporary music, especially by women composers, and has given world premieres of works by Robert Daigneault and Ann Southam. She was the soloist on a recording of piano music by Daigneault, entitled *Music for Tutenkhamen*, and is the author of *A Parent's Guide to Successful Piano Lessons*.



Ranganathan Rajan | Choreographer and Performer

Ranganathan Rajan (He/Him) is originally from India and is currently based in Tkaronto. 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 graduated from the Professional Training Program at Dance Arts Institute Canada (2025) and has completed a Diploma in Movement Art and Mixed Media from Attakkalari Center of Movement Arts in Bangalore, India (2021). Ranganathan believes in socially engaged acts involving people as the medium and focuses on participation and collaboration.

@ragno.44me



Eliajah Stefura | Lighting Designer

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.



Morgan Tessier | Poet and Performer

Morgan Tessier is an artist & poet living in Tkaronto. She has based the majority of her art around poetry & collage, with an intentional focus on the soft-white internet underbelly of the human experience. Her work has been featured in Discount Gulloittine, Undisciplined Collective, & Stone of Madness Press, and she has performed at *Probably Poetry*, *Undisciplined*, and *Mallo Nights*. She's currently interested in Christian social media, carwashes, and AI women.

@mo_etry

youdeserveacoffee.com



Photo: Kendra Epik

Claire Whitaker | Choreographer and Performer

Claire Whitaker (she/her) is a neurodivergent contemporary dance artist based in Toronto, Ontario. Following graduation from Dance Arts Institute (formerly The School of Toronto Dance Theatre) she participated in a residency with La Escuela Profesional de Danza in Mazatlán, Mexico. She has performed works by Peggy Baker, Christopher House, Colleen Snell, Kylie Thompson, Tanveer Alam, Motus O Dance Theatre, wind in the leaves collective and Compagnie de la Citadelle under Laurence Lemieux. Claire's practice is shaped by Modern/Western contemporary dance and recently Yin Yue's FOCO technique and Anouk Van Dijk's Countertechnique practice, alongside the healing teachings of Alexander Technique.

@_claireelovie



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

Assistant to the Artistic Director: Christina Litt Belch

Facility Manager + Outreach Coordinator: Kéïta Fournier-Pelletier

Technical Director: Eliajah Stefura

Bookkeeping: Morgyn Aronyk-Schell

Poster Design: Messenger

*on maternity leave

C+C BOARD OF DIRECTORS

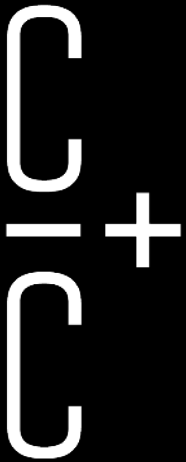
Terry Gardiner, Chair

William Milne, Treasurer

Patricia Fraser, Secretary

Janet Minor

Micheline McKay



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
David & Torunn Banks	Delaney Family Foundation
Lindy Green Family Foundation	Gail Hutchison
Janice Lewis & Mitchell Cohen	Jerry & Joan Lozinski
Jim & Sandra Pitblado	Robin Vaile Robinson

SEASON SUPPORTERS

The 2024/25 season is generously supported by



PRESENTING PARTNERS

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

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS

Canada Council for the Arts
Government of Canada
Ontario Arts Council
Government of Ontario
Toronto Arts Council

FOUNDATIONS

Lindy Green Family Foundation
Hal Jackman Foundation
K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation
Kingfisher Foundation
The I & I Fund
The Metcalf Foundation
The Zita and Mark Bernstein Family Foundation
Tippet Foundation**
Bulmash-Siegel Foundation
Edward A. Krucker Charitable Foundation

CORPORATIONS

Jumpstart**
Hull Life Insurance Corporation

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Delta Bingo & Gaming

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

SEASON SUPPORTERS

\$25,000 and above

Jerry & Joan Lozinski
Jim & Sandra Pitblado

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Robert Sirman
Robin Vaile Robinson

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Ricardo Gomez-Inausti*
William Milne*
Barbara & Kit Moore

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Terry Gardiner
Tammy Lipson
Lynn McDonald
Janet Minor
Lisa Richter Davey
Michael Trent
Anonymous

\$500 - \$999

James Austin
Peggy Baker
Anna Blewchamp
John Carter
Stephen Delaney
Rosemary Gosselin
Micheline McKay and
Richard Comparey
Kenny Pearl
James Scott
Jim Searle
Laura Wills

\$10 - \$499

Dorothy Abott
Miriam Adams
Barbara Bailey
Tracy Barber
Victoria Bertram
Lynn Bevan

Atin Bhattacharya
Marc Boivin
Nathalie Bonjour
Marie-Josée Chartier
Wendy Chiles
John Colburn and Grant Roll
Judith C. Cole
Yvonne Coutts-Martignago
Barbara deKat*
Richard Denesiuk - In
Memory of Lianne Fournier
Sandra Dudley - In Memory
of Ronald Charles Youd
James Dunn
Cheryl Epstein
Anne Fleming
Gordon Foster
Lucille Fournier
Lorne Fox
Dianne Fraser
Patricia Fraser
Denise Fujiwara
Geoffrey William Fulton
Judith Gallant
Judith Gelber
Joanna Gertler
Christina Giannelia
Jennifer Goodwin
Marie-Andrée Gougeon
John Gzowski
Ginette Hamel
Andrew Hartley
Jane Helie
Carol Hensley
Maxine Heppner
Ann Hogarth
Leslie-Ann Holbrow
Christopher House
Johanna Householder
Stephanie Hutchinson
James Kudelka
Coreen Lapointe
Christiane Lemieux

Lilia Leon
Deborah Lundmark
Susan Macpherson
Patricia Marino
Nancy McNee
Jean McNeil
Rob Miskey
Keith Morino
Jeff Morris
Barbara Murchie
Stephen Murphy
Laurie Nemetz
Selma Odom
Martine Pelletier
Suzanne Pelletier
Joan Phillips
Shan Richardson
Carolyn Ring
Karen Sasaki
Karen Sparks
Jane Spooner
Vicky St. Denys*
John Stanley
Pamela Steele
Myra Stephen
Anisa Tejpar
Gerry Trentham
Nava Messas Waxman
Mary Ann West
Phyllis Whyte
Karen Wierucki
Barbara Willis-Sweete
Christine Wright
Anonymous (4)

Your Name Here

Interested in
supporting C+C?

Click [HERE](#) for
more info.

*Monthly donor

This list represents all donations made between March 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025. It has been updated as of April 20, 2025. We apologize in advance for any omissions.

25 Years and Beyond

For 25 years, Citadel + Compagnie has been driven by a passion for sharing exceptional dance with diverse communities and opening meaningful dialogue between artists and the public.

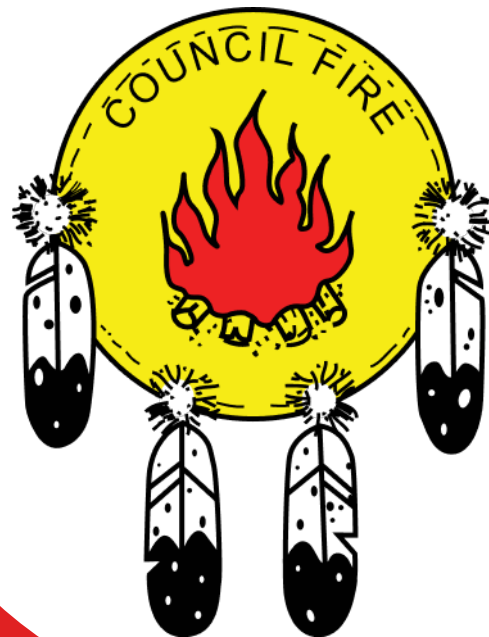
We are deeply committed to the development of Toronto's dance community, and this is what moves us to create, present and inspire.

This commitment is expressed through our dance company, **Compagnie de la Citadelle**, our presentation series **Citadel LIVE**, and the cultivating of the next generation of dancers through our **Citadel Dance Program**.

Citadel + Compagnie is a force within the Toronto dance community, and we need your support to continue our extraordinary programming well into the future.

CLICK HERE to help us finish this anniversary season strong by raising \$50,000 by June 30, 2025.

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.

**CLICK
HERE**
TO DONATE