



ANNE

OCT 1-4 / 2025

THE CITADEL:
ROSS CENTRE FOR DANCE

COMPAGNIE
DE
LA CITADELLE

LAURENCE LEMIEUX
EDWARD POITRAS
NIC VINCENT
AIDAN MCCONNELL
DANIELLE BASKERVILLE

CITADEL
LIVE 25
26
CITADELCIE.COM

PHOTO BY JESSIE HERRING

ANNE

October 1-4, 2025 | The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance

Choreographer, Performer: Laurence Lemieux

Senior Artist: Edward Poitras

Lighting Designer: Nic Vincent

Composer/ Sound Designer: Aidan McConnell

Rehearsal Director: Danielle Baskerville

Stage Manager, Production Manager: Marianna Rosato

Costume Designer: Laurence Lemieux

Technical Director: Eliajah Stefura

Set Construction Support: BC Design Build



Special thank you to New Dance Horizons for supporting the early stages of this work.

Running time – 50 minutes, no intermission

This performance contains haze

Welcome

The inspiration for this work is rooted in the history of one of my ancestors, Anne Martin (1614-1684). Anne's background is quite uncertain as she was either a "marriageable woman" who came from France, or the daughter of an Indigenous woman who had married a French settler.

Early on in the process I invited visual artist **Edward Poitras** to join me in the creative exploration of this work. The uncertainty of Anne's origins sparked his interest, most notably the meeting between the Indigenous and the French at the beginning of colonization. Edward's scenic design is inspired by L'île d'Orléans, which was named *isle de Bascuz* by Jacques Cartier in 1535. L'île d'Orléans is the place where my ancestors settled and where they remained for hundreds of years until my grandfather, Francois-Albert Côté, left the island and moved to Québec City, where I am from. Edward's design includes a unit of measurement under the island, 10^{-33}cm , which refers to the Planck length, the smallest theoretically possible unit of measurement in our universe.

Anne is a work that speaks about individual power, memory and belonging. In addition to Edward's design, the work is supported by an original composition by **Aidan McConnell**, original lighting design by **Nic Vincent**, and rehearsal direction by **Danielle Baskerville**. This work would not exist without these collaborators for whom I hold the deepest of gratitude.

-Laurence Lemieux

Special thanks to Marianna Rosato, Eli Stefura, Adam Achacon, Caroline O'Brien, and Robin Poitras and the team at New Dance Horizons.



Meet the Artists

Photo: Aleksander Antonijevic



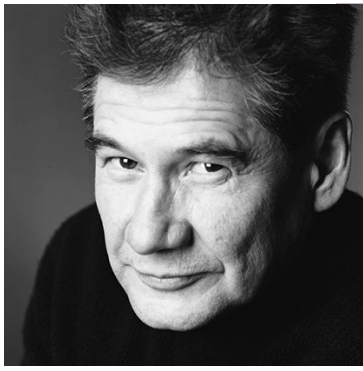
Laurence Lemieux | Choreographer, Performer

Laurence Lemieux is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, presenter and artistic director of Citadel + Compagnie. Born in Québec City, Lemieux studied dance at L'École Supérieure de Danse du Québec and The School of Toronto Dance Theatre. From 1986 to 1998 she performed for Toronto Dance Theatre, winning a Dora Mavor Moore Award for her interpretation of Christopher House's "Cryptoversa" in 1998. Over the course of her career, Lemieux has danced for some of Canada's most prominent choreographers, including Margie Gillis, James Kudelka, and Jean-Pierre Perreault, and has created over thirty original works, drawing deeply on personal experiences that resonate strongly with audiences and presenters alike.

As artistic director of Citadel + Compagnie, Lemieux has established herself as a leader within Toronto's dance community. Over her twenty-five-year tenure she has built the company's home, The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance, into the cultural beacon it has become today, instituting much needed platforms for presentation, and creating the Citadel Dance Program, bringing accessible dance classes to children living in Toronto's Regent Park.

Under Lemieux's leadership, the company has toured extensively, travelling to Russia, Scotland's Edinburgh Festival, Vimy, France, the acclaimed Jacob's Pillow Festival, and Battery Dance Festival in NYC, facilitating artistic exchange around the globe.

Lemieux's satisfaction as an artist comes from sharing her love of dance with both audiences and students and she has taught at many respected institutions across Canada. She is a passionate advocate for the arts and a deeply engaged and active member of the dance community.



Edward Poitras | Senior Artist

Edward Poitras was born in 1953 in Regina, Saskatchewan and is a member of the Gordon First Nation. He studied with Sarain Stump at the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural College in Saskatoon (1974) and then with Mexican Aboriginal artist Domingo Cisneros at Manitou College in La Macaza, Québec (1975-1976). Poitras then became an instructor himself, teaching at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College in Saskatoon (1976-1978), the University of Manitoba (1978) and the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College at the University of Regina (1981-1984, 1989-1990, now First Nations University of Canada). Poitras has also worked as a graphic artist for New Breed magazine (1984-1985).

Poitras's mixed-media sculptures and installations combine a variety of natural and human-made elements. His work explores themes including history, treaties, the effects of colonialism, and life in urban spaces and on the reserve.

Poitras's work has been exhibited in solo and group shows across the country and in the United States, Finland, and has been included in nearly every major contemporary Aboriginal exhibition since 1980. In 1995, Poitras became the first Aboriginal artist to represent Canada at the Venice Biennale. A 2002 exhibition organized by Saskatoon's Mendel Art Gallery, "Qu'Appelle: Tales of Two Valleys," included many of his recent works.

Poitras's work is part of the collections of the Canadian Museum of Civilization (Hull, Quebec), Mendel Art Gallery (Saskatoon), Saskatchewan Arts Board, MacKenzie Art Gallery (Regina), Thunder Bay Art Gallery, and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, among others. In 2002, Poitras was awarded the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts. In November 2020, Edward joined Robin Poitras C.M. as the Co-Artistic Director of New Dance Horizons.



Nic Vincent | Lighting Designer

Nic is a lighting designer based out of Toronto and New York City. He began his career in Canada's contemporary dance scene and is happy to be returning to it with such incredible artists. Now specializing in theatre, dance, and opera, he has designed award-winning productions across the U.S. and Canada, including Off-Broadway and regionally.

Recent Off-Broadway: Lincoln Center Theater, Roundabout, The Atlantic, The Apollo, Theater Row, 59E59, Mabou Mines, New Ohio, NY Live Arts, Rattlestick. Regional: Geva Theatre, Guthrie Theater, Yale Repertory Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, People's Light (Barrymore nominated), Portland Opera, Sacramento Opera.

Other work includes *Wéi 成为* (Yvonne Ng), *NIGHTGOWNS* (Sasha Velour / Quibi), and many new-play developments, most recently at the Blyth festival. Member: ADC IATSE 659, M.F.A.: Yale School of Drama, nicvincent.com



Aidan McConnell | Composer, Sound Designer

Aidan McConnell (he/him) is a composer, drummer, improviser, and concert producer/curator based in Toronto. He sees all of his musical endeavors from the perspective of a facilitator. Whether he is organizing a concert, performing improvised music as a drummer, or composing for a play, dance performance, or musical ensemble, to support the unification of others' artistic voices is one of his greatest joys. As a composer and improviser, Aidan is interested in exploring experimental forms, playing with audience and performers' attention/rate of perception, and performing with honesty and vulnerability. Aidan performs frequently in the jazz and improvised music scene in Toronto, as well as with experimental folk-rock band *Burs*, freak folk band *Potions*, and Montréal based folk songwriter Bells Larsen.



Danielle Baskerville | Rehearsal Director

Danielle Baskerville has been engaged in performing, teaching, rehearsal directing, producing, and advocating within the field of dance for 30 years. She has received numerous awards for performance, as well as independent and scholarly support for research into dance archiving, and the intersection of performance and affect theory. She has served a five-year term on the board of the Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists (CADA-East), received her MA from York University, is Artistic Associate of The Dietrich Group and Artistic Coordinator at Dance Arts Institute. As a performer she most recently appeared in a solo film by Jonathan Osborn entitled *100 YEARS OF WOMEN IN CINEMA IN 300 MOVING PIECES* (composed of chronologically organised excerpts of movement sourced from the performances of 300 different female "icons" from global cinema). In addition to her dance life, Danielle is one year into a new career as a Registered Massage Therapist and finding immense joy in helping others feel better in their bodies.



Elijah Stefura | Technical Director

Eli (he/him) is a technician in the city of Toronto. He began working professionally in the industry upon his graduation from Toronto Metropolitan University in 2019. Eli danced recreationally and professionally for 19 years before transitioning to a career in production. Eli Joined the Citadel team in 2021 and has enjoyed being able to blend his love of dance with his passion for technical production.



Marianna Rosato | Production and Stage Manager

A Toronto native, Marianna received her BFA as a graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University. She spent three years as the assistant stage manager for Toronto Dance Theatre before working as a freelance SM in Toronto. She has stage-managed works for Nova Dance, Fujiwara Dance Inventions, Tiger Princess Dance Projects, adelheid Dance Projects, BoucharDanse, the dance: made in Canada series, the National Ballet School of Canada, and many others. In 2013 Marianna began stage managing for Citadel + Compagnie, and after receiving a Metcalf internship, became the company's Production Stage Manager in 2017. She taught Dance Stage Management at TMU from 2015-2023.

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

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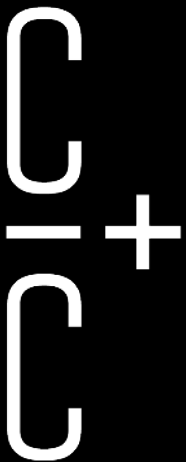
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OCT 16–18 / 2025

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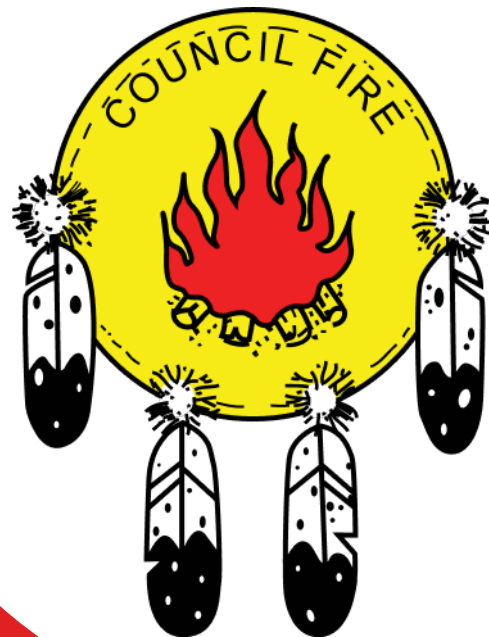
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