

CITADEL DANCE EXCHANGE

A woman is shown from the waist up, wearing a black dress covered in gold and silver sequins. Her arms are raised high above her head, and she is looking upwards with an open mouth, as if in a state of performance or expression. The background is a solid, deep blue.

the
national
ballet of
canada

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA'S
CREATIVE ACTION PROGRAMME

APR 8–18 / 2026

THE CITADEL:
ROSS CENTRE FOR DANCE

CITADEL
LIVE ²⁵/₂₆
CITADELCIE.COM

PHOTO by Danielle Lefevre

CITADEL DANCE EXCHANGE

April 8-18, 2026 | The Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance

Creative Team

Artistic Director: Laurence Lemieux
Production Manager: Marianna Rosato
Producer: Sierra Chin Sawdy
Technical Director: Eliajah Stefura
Lighting Director: Simon Rossiter
Lighting Designer: Theo Belc*
Stage Manager: Kathy Le

*Lighting Designer for the Toronto works, supported through The National Ballet of Canada's Creative Action Emerging Lighting Designer Initiative

Citadel Dance Exchange is an exciting annual dance series featuring works by some of Toronto and Montréal's most talented artists.

A joint initiative with The National Ballet of Canada's Creative Action Programme, Citadel Dance Exchange brings together works by Toronto-based artists alongside works by Montréal-based artists for 8 days of exceptional dance sure to provoke, move and inspire.

Works by Montréal Artists were curated by Citadel + Compagnie.

Works by Toronto artists were developed through The National Ballet of Canada's Creative Action Open Space Programme, selected by advisory committee artists, Sierra Chin Sawdy, Alyssa Martin, Andrea Nann, and Kwasi Obeng-Adjei.

**the
national
ballet of
canada**

In collaboration with The National Ballet of Canada's Creative Action Programme

Québec 

Citadel Dance Exchange is made possible (in part)
with support from the Bureau du Québec à Toronto

WEEK 1



Toronto Programme 1

April 8 | 7pm

April 10 | 9pm

April 11 | 3pm, 9pm

BABAElan

Blessyl Buan

Unraveled Bloom

Tina Fushell

Behind the Effect

Solange Alexander,

Avery Jackman,

Danah Rosales



Montréal Programme 1

April 9 | 7pm

April 10 | 7pm

April 11 | 7pm

AVES

José Navas/Compagnie Flak

WEEK 2



Toronto Programme 2

April 15 | 7pm

April 17 | 9pm

April 18 | 3pm, 9pm

zikr

Tanveer Alam

This Piece is Not About Motherhood, it's About the Body

Jane-Alison McKinney

The Light of Movement

Hannah Galway



Montréal Programme 2

April 16 | 7pm

April 17 | 7pm

April 18 | 7pm

Sans collier, Physiographie d'existences

Louise Bédard/

Louise Bédard Danse

CITADEL DANCE EXCHANGE

WED APR 8

7PM

Blessyl Buan (TOR)

Tina Fushell (TOR)

Solange Alexander, Avery Jackman,
Danah Rosales (TOR)

THU APR 9

7PM

José Navas/Compagnie Flak (MTL)

FRI APR 10

7PM

José Navas/Compagnie Flak (MTL)

9PM

Blessyl Buan (TOR)

Tina Fushell (TOR)

Solange Alexander, Avery Jackman,
Danah Rosales (TOR)

SAT APR 11

3PM

Blessyl Buan (TOR)

Tina Fushell (TOR)

Solange Alexander, Avery Jackman,
Danah Rosales (TOR)

7PM

José Navas/Compagnie Flak (MTL)

9PM

Blessyl Buan (TOR)

Tina Fushell (TOR)

Solange Alexander, Avery Jackman,
Danah Rosales (TOR)

WED APR 15

7PM

Tanveer Alam (TOR)

Jane-Alison McKinney (TOR)

Hannah Galway featuring RBC Apprentices
from The National Ballet of Canada (TOR)

THU APR 16

7PM

Louise Bédard/Louise Bédard Danse (MTL)

FRI APR 17

7PM

Louise Bédard/Louise Bédard Danse (MTL)

9PM

Tanveer Alam (TOR)

Jane-Alison McKinney (TOR)

Hannah Galway featuring RBC Apprentices
from The National Ballet of Canada (TOR)

SAT APR 18

3PM

Tanveer Alam (TOR)

Jane-Alison McKinney (TOR)

Hannah Galway featuring RBC Apprentices
from The National Ballet of Canada (TOR)

7PM

Louise Bédard/Louise Bédard Danse (MTL)

9PM

Tanveer Alam (TOR)

Jane-Alison McKinney (TOR)

Hannah Galway featuring RBC Apprentices
from The National Ballet of Canada (TOR)



Choreographer: Blessyl Buan

Performers: Blessyl Buan, Christina de la Cruz, Candace Kumar

Costume Styling: Blessyl Buan

Prop Design & Painting (banga): Blessyl Buan

Sound Design: Blessyl Buan

Sound Editing: Ryan Buan

Featuring voices of: Erlinda de la Cruz, Nena C. Neri, Erlinda Dolido Alvarado

Featuring "Ancient" performed by Kimmortal, Written by Kim Villagante, Julz Bolinayen, Produced by Prado

Outside Eye: Irma Villafuerte

BABAEIlan

Blessyl Buan

Toronto Programme 1

April 8 | 7pm

April 10 | 9pm

April 11 | 3pm, 9pm

BABAEIlan unfolds across three portals—mythic, provincial, and contemporary—tracing a lineage of memory, migration, and becoming. Three babae (women) are drawn into relationship with palm—cut, dried, and reawakened through movement. What begins as curiosity becomes responsibility. As they move across generations and geographies, the dancers enter a process of remembering: learning to embody power carried through time. Spirituality emerges not as abstraction, but as something lived—born through the body and shaped through material.

Guided by the unseen presence of the Babaylan—ancestral healers from the Philippines who hold balance between land, body, and spirit—*BABAEIlan* invites reverent witnessing of ceremonial labour shaped by diaspora. What emerges is a reclamation of presence and identity—hard-won, carried forward, and alive in the present.

BABAEIlan is an excerpt from a larger work in progress. These evolving stories reflect Blessyl Buan's current creative process, engaging materiality, dance, and spirituality as interconnected ways of knowing and making.

With gratitude for mentorship and creative advisement during the development of this work. With deep respect to the Bawer family of the Kalinga people in the Philippines for their living cultural legacy, and to the Philippine weavers and our ancestors whose hands, stories, and traditions continue to shape this work.

**Choreographer and Performer:**

Tina Fushell

Sound Design: Victoria Cheong**Sound Mix:** Johnny Spence**Scenographer and Floral Design:**

Mimosa Haque

Costume Design: Valerie Calam,

Tina Fushell

Costume Construction: Valerie Calam,

Mairi Greig

Unraveled Bloom

Tina Fushell

Toronto Programme 1

April 8 | 7pm

April 10 | 9pm

April 11 | 3pm, 9pm

Unraveled Bloom is a meditation on infertility and early onset menopause, brought to life through movement, floral installation, and sound. Embedded within two of the audio tracks is the biodata of the carnations that inhabit the space, intertwined with my own—tiny, intimate details that transform the work into a living, breathing archive of experience.

While deeply personal, this story extends beyond my individual journey. Through gesture, flora, and sound, moments of grief, transformation, and shifting identity unfold, inviting the audience into a space where the personal becomes universal, and where presence and memory coexist.

This work was made in collaboration with Mimosa Haque, Victoria Cheong, Valerie Calam, and Mairi Greig, and with the many outside eyes and facilitators – Adam Vandermeij, Aisha Sasha John, Alana Harding, Anisa Tejpar, Bobby Theodore, Cathy Gordon, Christopher Manousos, Creig Lamb, and Kate Nankervis – who came into the studio to offer insight, direction, support, and care. From the bottom of my heart, thank you all.

I would also like to thank Theodore Belc for his lighting design; Alyssa Martin and The National Ballet of Canada's Creative Action Programme for providing a creation residency at the Walter Carsen Centre to support the development of this work; and Laurence Lemieux, Sierra Chin Sawdy, and the entire team at Citadel + Compagnie for their care and support in presenting this work through the Citadel Dance Exchange, along with the Toronto Arts Council for supporting part of its creation.



Choreographers and Performers:

Solange Alexander, Avery Jackman

Project Manager/Coordinator, Artistic Facilitator/Collaborator, Rehearsal

Director: Danah Rosales

Outside Eye: Matthew Cuff

Sound Production: Psi

Movement Direction and Outside Eye: Kosi Eze

Styling/Costume Design:

Charlotte "Char" Carbonne

Ballroom Homage Video – Editor:

Nolan Vancooten

Closing Video – Editor: Danielle Lastres

Behind the Effect

Solange Alexander, Avery Jackman, Danah Rosales

Toronto Programme 1

April 8 | 7pm

April 10 | 9pm

April 11 | 3pm, 9pm

Behind the Effect peels back the glamour of the underground ballroom scene to reveal the realities beneath, while honouring the roots, and birth of the culture and the pioneers and trailblazers of the Canadian ballroom scene. It is an homage and a love letter to our ballroom community – to the transcestors who came before us, the folx who gave their lives to the culture, and the loved ones we have lost along the way. When two of Canada's top ballroom walkers remove their "effects," who are they beyond the performance?

Confronting the lived realities of being Black, trans, gay, and feminine in a world that often oscillates between desiring and denying these identities and expressions, the work follows two artists as they share their journeys through drag, storytelling, dance, and vogue. *Behind the Effect* invites us to move beyond spectacle and witness the humanity, care, and vulnerability that live behind the effect.

Special thank you to our collaborators, Theo Belc, Psi, Kosi, Bam Bam, Danielle, and Senbo! Thank you also to Christina De la Cruz, Sofi Gudiño and Joce Cajamarca for your love and care. We offer deep gratitude and appreciation to Alyssa Martin, the team at The Citadel, and our village for the ways they showed up to support this work – our fullest selves would not be here without community.



Blessyl Buan

BABAEIlan

Blessyl Buan is a Filipino Canadian choreographer, dancer and visual artist creating performance and installation rooted in ritual, materiality, and embodied knowledge. Her lineage-based, site-responsive practice explores relationships between body, land, and cultural memory through interdisciplinary collaboration and somatic research. She holds a degree in Kinesiology from McMaster University and a Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) from Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, informing a practice grounded in kinesthetic intelligence, care, and embodied empathy. Her work invites reverent witnessing and centers ceremonial labour as a living, evolving practice. She is based in Scarborough.



Tina Fushell

Unraveled Bloom

Tina Fushell, a lover of art, dance, flowers, and laughter, was born and raised in St. John's, Newfoundland, on the ancestral homelands of the Mi'kmaq and Beothuk peoples, and now lives and works in Tkaronto/Toronto. As a performer, she has collaborated with choreographers Valerie Calam, Ame Henderson, Christopher House, and Darryl Tracy, and presented work at festivals including Dusk Dances, Porch View Dances, Festival of New Dance, Dance: Made in Canada, LEGS, Short and Sweet, and SummerWorks. Tina has held roles as co-artistic director of the Toronto Dance Community Love-In, curatorial associate at SummerWorks, and most recently performed in the Moonhorse Dance Theatre's presentation of *Phalanx: Revival* as part of SummerWorks. Outside of her artistic practice, Tina works as a florist.



Solange Alexander

Behind the Effect

Solange Alexander, also known by her ballroom name Solar Siriano 007 Morningstar, is an emerging artist and Black trans woman from Scarborough working within the ballroom and vogue scene. Her performance practice merges elegance, precision, and narrative, using movement as both celebration and resistance. Solange has appeared on platforms including Boiler Room, Gay Rights, Precious Cargo, fashion showcases, Pride Toronto, and the Toronto Kiki Ballroom Alliance, where she received the 2025 TKBA Statement of the Year award. For Solange, vogue is more than performance; it is community, lineage, and liberation. Through her work, she embodies strength, vulnerability, and transformation, contributing powerfully to contemporary queer performance and culture.



Avery Jackman

Behind the Effect

Avery Jackman, known in the ballroom world as Ava Telfar Balenciaga, is an emerging artist widely known as “The Flava.” Entering the ballroom scene in 2021, they have quickly become a nationally recognized performer. Their artistry has been honored with numerous accolades, including Drags Performance of the Year, New Runway of the Year, Godmother of the Year, People’s Choice Drags Performance of the Year, and the historic distinction of being the first recipient of the Toronto Kiki Ballroom Alliance’s Most Outstanding Butchqueen award. In 2024, Ava was inducted into the Iconic House of Balenciaga. They have competed across North America and are committed to community care through Feminine Fun, a free monthly Vogue Fem program for Queer and Trans youth.



Danah Rosales

Behind the Effect

Danah Rosales (she/her/siya), known in the ballroom scene as Maldita Siriano 007, is a Tkaronto-based queer millennial; a 2nd-generation Canadian-Filipinx, a daughta, a cister, and solo parent of two humans. She is the 2nd women's performance legend following after Kitana, overall motha of the Kiki House of Siriano following after Miyoko, and a three-time Dora Award-nominated artist.

Her practice as an artist and community leader within the Canadian ballroom scene—particularly the Kiki community—encompasses dancing, teaching, coaching, mentoring, consulting, producing, organizing, and interdisciplinary choreography and performance. Grounded in lived experience, Maldita centers ballroom history, legacy, and contemporary relevance through her work as a facilitator, choreographer, consultant, producer, and educator.

She is emerging as a choreographer and aspiring curator, bringing ballroom artists to diverse stages through works such as *The Grand March of the House of Siriano* (Fall for Dance North, 2021) and *GIVE ME ONE* (Toronto Dance Theatre, 2023), the latter earning a Dora nomination for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble. Danah is now moving into roles that nurture, develop, and support ballroom artists pursuing practices beyond the ballroom floor.

**Choreographer and Performer:**

José Navas

Lighting Design: Marc Parent**Costumes:** José Navas**Fabrication:** Sonya Bayer, L'Atelier de couture Sonya B**Production:** Compagnie Flak

AVES

José Navas/Compagnie Flak

Montréal Programme 1

April 9 | 7pm

April 10 | 7pm

April 11 | 7pm

Québec 

Dancing his life on stage, choreographer and dancer José Navas opens his heart and soul as he shares memories of his late husband. A luminous and touching homage.

In a series of six autobiographical solos, Navas pays tribute to William Douglas (1953–1996). Felled by AIDS in the prime of life, Douglas was renowned for the architectural elegance and intelligence of his award-winning choreographic works. The culmination of their artistic relationship, *While Waiting*, choreographed by Douglas and performed by Navas, earned them a Bessie Award in New York in 1994. On a bare stage, Navas tells their story in fluid dance, calling up his memories to the music he loves: Billie Holiday, Bach, PJ Harvey, Dorothy Moore, and birdsong from the Amazon rainforest. A liberating show; an understated and heartfelt ritual. Deeply moving.

AVES was created as a co-production with Theater im Pumpenhaus, Münster (Germany) and Danse Danse (Canada).



José Navas / Compagnie Flak

AVES

Artistic director of Compagnie Flak, founded in 1995, José Navas carries out his overall artistic approach in three distinct ways: he dances with intensity in solo shows charged with emotion, he constructs abstract and captivating group pieces, and he creates pieces of contemporary ballet with classicism and sensitivity. As a soloist, his performances reveal a richly sensitive maturity – a quality that has earned him invitations to dance on the most prestigious local and international stages.

In 2013, surrounded by a hundred musicians from the Brussels Philharmonic, he performed his solo version of *The Rite of Spring*. Invited as choreographer in residence for Ballet BC, he contributed 3 pieces to the company's repertoire, including an iconoclastic version of *Giselle*, and made a commission for the prestigious National Ballet of Canada. In 2015, he created *Dénouement/Auflösung* for Staatstheater Mainz in Germany. An Associate Dance Artist of the National Arts Centre, José Navas has presented his work in 30 countries in the Americas, Europe and Asia.

TOR



Choreographer and Performer:

Tanveer Alam

Vocalists: Mithun Reza, Vihaan

Tabla Accompaniment:

Zaheer-Abbas Janmohamed

Clapping Ensemble: Anjali Tanna,
Disha Panchal, Ambika Sundaram,
Tanishka Gupta

Dramaturgy and Conceptualization:

Harikishan S. Nair

Musical compositions: Hason Raja,
Amir Khosro, Bulleh Shah

zkr

Tanveer Alam

Toronto Programme 2

April 15 | 7pm

April 17 | 9pm

April 18 | 3pm, 9pm

This piece opens a space of personal reckoning for Tanveer – reflecting on his Bangladeshi roots and the complexities of culture and identity.

Thank you to my incredible team of collaborators and students who have given their artistry to this piece. Thank you to my mentor and dramaturg, Hari, for continuously pushing me and helping me find my artistic voice. Thank you to Afsana and Aparita for lending us these beautiful sarees. Thank you to my parents for imbibing their love of Bangladeshi culture in me.

**Choreographer and Performer:**

Jane-Alison McKinney

Music: Clara Chemtov**Outside Eye:** Heidi Strauss**Rehearsal Assistance:** Reagan Baird**Costume Assistance and****Alterations:** Emma Yampolsky-Shields

This Piece is Not About Motherhood, it's About the Body

Jane-Alison McKinney

Toronto Programme 2

April 15 | 7pm

April 17 | 9pm

April 18 | 3pm, 9pm

This Piece is Not About Motherhood, it's About the Body is a personal choreographic expression inspired by an experience of significant change. It traverses motions of care and the physical memory of being two people at once. It explores the value of agency and ownership of one's own body, a value it aims to project back outwardly.

Inspired by motions of care and an experience of significant change.

Thank you to Sierra Chin Sawdy, Alyssa Martin, Andrea Nann, and Kwasi Obeng-Adjei for believing in this work, and to Laurence Lemieux, Citadel + Compagnie and The National Ballet of Canada's Creative Action Programme for your generous support. Thank you to Syreeta Hector and the York Dance Ensemble for being a warm first audience. Thank you to Heidi for always helping me understand what is possible and what is important. Thank you to Clara and Theo for making a world for this work to live in. Thank you to Nick, Meg, Bradley, and Neha, dream care-takers. Thank you to Quinn, my whole heart.



Choreographer: Hannah Galway

Performers: RBC Apprentices from
The National Ballet of Canada
Karin Laldjising and Ryan Cheng (April 15)
Heewon Moon and Felix Russell (April 17)
Celia Morrison and Joao Massei (April 18 @ 3pm)
Miyu Tobata and Tom Cape (April 18 @ 9pm)

Music: Joaquin Rodrigo, *Concierto de Aranjuez*

Rehearsal Director: Greta Hodgkinson

The Light of Movement

Hannah Galway

Toronto Programme 2

April 15 | 7pm

April 17 | 9pm

April 18 | 3pm, 9pm

Choreographer Hannah Galway originally created this piece in 2024. The dancers move with no story in mind. They share their energies with one another to create something that is felt before it is seen.



Tanveer Alam

zikr

Toronto-based Tanveer Alam started his Kathak training with Sudeshna Maulik and continued further nuanced studies with guru Sandhya Desai. Alam is a 2019 graduate of western contemporary dance from Dance Arts Institute of Canada (DAI). Tanveer has received nuanced kathak training from Pandita Shama Bhate and Sanjukta Sinha. He is currently pursuing mentorships with Harikishan S. Nair and Dheerendra Tiwari.

Alam has performed in the works of Rina Singha, Lata Pada, Padmini Chettur, Brandy Leary, Harikishan S. Nair, Sashar Zarif, Lucy Rupert, and Peter Chin, to name a few. As an emerging choreographer, he has presented work at SummerWorks Festival, Battery Dance Festival +, MAI - Montréal, arts, interculturels, CanAsian Dance Festival: Grit Short Dances, and Tangente. As an emerging curator, he has supported programming initiatives with Dancemakers, TOES FOR DANCE, and Flemingdon Park Toronto Public Library. He was the co-curator for the Kathak & Ballet program at Fall For Dance North 2025, a leading international dance festival based in Canada.

Across the 25/26 season, Alam has performed at The New York Kathak Festival (New York), Fall For Dance North (Toronto), the Aga Khan Museum (Toronto), and Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (Mumbai) to name a few. Recently he toured Singapore and India as a part of Sampradaya Dance Creation's new work *Kintsugi*.



Jane-Alison McKinney

This Piece is Not About Motherhood, it's About the Body

Jane-Alison McKinney is a Toronto based dance artist. Her work has been presented by platforms including Citadel + Compagnie, Tangente, Expanse, The Saint John Contemporary Dance Festival, Summerworks, and Guelph Dance Festival. Jane-Alison's work with Emma Kerson, *hard wire*, premiered at Citadel + Compagnie in 2023, and toured to Arts Orillia and Ottawa Dance Directive in 2024.

A graduate of The School of Toronto Dance Theatre (now Dance Arts Institute), Jane-Alison has performed the works of a variety of dance artists in Canada and Internationally. In 2016, she was awarded a Metcalf Foundation Internship in Artistic Direction with adelheid under the mentorship of Heidi Strauss, and in 2022 was a performer in Heidi's *on air*, which was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble. She is currently a faculty member in Dance at York University.



Hannah Galway

The Light of Movement

Hannah Galway was born in Comox, British Columbia and trained at Canada's National Ballet School. Hannah joined The National Ballet of Canada as an RBC Apprentice in 2017 and was promoted to First Soloist in 2024.

Most recently, Hannah debuted as Baba and Sheep in *The Nutcracker* and performed in the world premiere of *Procession*, choreographed by Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber. Hannah's repertoire includes the title roles in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Emma Bovary*, the *Other Stepsister* and Blossom in *Cinderella*, Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*, Princess Betsy Tverskaja in *Anna Karenina*, Amour in *Don Quixote* and the Bee in *The Nutcracker*. Her repertoire includes roles in *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, *Onegin*, *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude*, *Angels' Atlas*, *Silent Screen*, *MADDADDAM*, *The Merry Widow*, *The Dream*, *The Second Detail*, *Passion*, *Emergence*, *Serenade*, *Jewels*, *The Four Seasons*, *Elite Syncopations*, *Paz de la Jolla*, *Paquita*, *islands*, *Adieu*, *Frame by Frame*, *The Dreamers Ever Leave You*, *Skyward*, *King's Fall* and *Desperate Drama of Red*.

Hannah was awarded the Dancers First Award in 2025, the Patron Award of Merit in 2020 and 2019 and the RBC Emerging Artist Award in 2018.

Hannah Galway is sponsored through *Dancers First* by Alison & Alan Schwartz.


Choreographer and Performer:

Louise Bédard

Dramaturgy: Angélique Wilkie

Dramaturgy Assistant: Anne Thériault

Rehearsal Master: Scott McCabe

Composer: Diane Labrosse

Lighting Design: Lucie Bazzo

Set Design: Marilène Bastien

Makeup Artist: Angelo Barsetti

Costume Assistant: Anna Duverne

Video: Robin Pineda Gould

Technical Director: Gaspard Philippe

Sans collier, Physiographie d'existences

Louise Bédard/Louise Bédard Danse

Montréal Programme 2

April 16 | 7pm

April 17 | 7pm

April 18 | 7pm

 Québec 

Sans collier, Physiographie d'existences is the odyssey of a woman who allows herself to celebrate the many faces that trace back to the confines of her destiny. Choreographer and dancer Louise Bédard, by capturing her image in the form of several self-portraits taken during the pandemic, has highlighted a geography of real and fictional existences at the heart of a fixed photographic rendering. Accumulating a body of photos, the choreographer then sought to bring to life several of these portraits of women who reveal themselves in her own flesh as bearers of pitfalls, mutations, and futures. Each of these women grants the artist the measure and counterbalance of these motionless moments, the space of visibility from which they so often felt dispossessed. It is through the body and gaze of a woman of a certain age that they consent to leave their mark here and there. By embodying these figures and representations carried by the gestures and words of the author Clarice Lispector, this solitary woman, moved by the present moment, ventures into the physiography of existences.

Special Thanks to: Danse K par K, Furies Festival de danse contemporaine, Circuit-Est choreographic centre, Festival Quartiers Danses. Agence Roger Roger. Olivier Bertrand, Marc Boivin, Sylvain Émard Danse, Folio et Garetti, Jean Logan, Anna Duverne, Anne-Sophie Gagnon, Catherine Gauthier, Julio Meija, Richard Simas, and the members of the Louise Bédard Danse board of directors Marie Lamoureux, Etienne Boaknin, Mario Côté.

This work was created as a co-production with La Chapelle | Scènes contemporaines. The company benefited from creative residencies at Agora de la danse, Place des arts, Centre d'art Diane-Dufresne, and Maison de la culture du Plateau-Mont-Royal.

Louise Bédard Dance company is supported by the Canada Council for the Arts and the Conseil des arts de Montréal.



Louise Bédard

Sans collier, Physiographie d'existences

Louise Bédard is a renowned choreographer who began her career as a performer with numerous choreographers on Montréal's contemporary dance scene. In 1990, she founded her own company, Louise Bédard Danse, marking the beginning of her career as a creator. Her choreographic language, often praised for its finesse, is distinguished by a desire to portray humanity in all its strength and fragility, opening up spaces for subjectivity and personal expression. Over the years, her many experiences have brought her closer to the essence of movement, the kind that makes sense to her and frees her boundless imagination. Her work has been recognized many times, notably with the Performer of the Year award at the 2018 Prix de la danse de Montréal.

In her recent works for several dancers, such as *Promesses* (2020), *Vu-Vibrations urbaines* (2017), and *La Démarquise* (2016), she highlights her relationship with the visual arts, words (sung and spoken), and physical space, key elements of her choreography. Her short pieces, solos and duets presented between 2018 and 2023, such as *Les Mains froissées*, *Odalisca*, *Le collier de Sélène*, *FLOOD*, and *La femme ovale*, have kept her creative spirit alive. In 2020-2021, in the midst of the pandemic, she invited several dancers to reprise a series of seven solos, filmed by director Mario Côté. She also made her debut as a co-director with *Démesures* (2022), her first film, co-directed with Xavier Curnillon, which was selected and awarded at various dance and art film festivals. She will soon appear in the lead role in *Oraison*, the first feature film by director Laetita Démessence. In 2023 and 2024, Louise appeared on stage in Jérémie Niel's *Face-à-Face* and Catherine Gaudet's *Les mondes parallèles*. In the fall of 2025, *Tenir Parole*, a public reading directed by Angelo Barsetti, will be presented at the International Literature Festival. Louise will share the stage with Angelo, where texts by five female authors brought together for the occasion will be read. She is also part of director Manolis Antoniou's production of the solo *Petits appareils / Small appliance*. In November, she will dance the duet *Handmade*, a co-creation by Marc Boivin and Louise, which will be presented in Toronto.

In 2025, to mark the 35th anniversary of her company, her brand-new creation *Sans collier, Physiographie d'existences* (*Without a Necklace, Physiography of Existences*) saw the light of day. Based on a photographic corpus created in 2021, Louise embarks on the adventure of embodying no less than 17 women, some presented live on stage, others through the medium of video.

MARILÈNE BASTIEN | Set Designer, *Sans collier, Physiographie d'existences*

Marilène Bastien works as a set and costume designer. With contemporary dance as her preferred medium, she collaborates with several renowned choreographers, including Louise Bédard (*Sans collier, Promesses, La Démarquise*). She has also created designs for *Cirque du Soleil* and *Cirque Éloïze*. In opera, her work has been seen in Limoges, Saint-Étienne (France), Pavia (Italy), and Quebec City. In theater, she has collaborated notably with director Nini Bélanger (*Petite sorcière, Splendide jeunesse, Homicide, Après tout*). She recently designed the sets for the musical theater productions *Évangéline* (directed by Jean-Jacques Pillet) and *Lili St-Cyr* (directed by Benoit Landry). In 2015, Marilène was named the protégé of Anick La Bissonnière, winner of the Siminovitch Prize.

LUCIE BAZZO | Lighting Designer, *Sans collier, Physiographie d'existences*

A lighting designer for over 35 years, Lucie Bazzo has collaborated throughout her career with renowned directors such as Robert Lepage and Denis Marleau, while also supporting emerging talent. She has also lit Montreal's contemporary dance scene, notably with Lynda Gaudreau, Crystal Pite, Louise Bédard, Hélène Blackburn, and the Schmutt Sisters, to name just a few. Her scope of work extends beyond the performing arts; she collaborates with musicians (Dear Criminals, Beyries, the Bozzini Quartet) and videographers, not to mention her ability to work off-site in non-theatrical venues.

Lucie Bazzo also creates light installations for the Phénomena festival and practices photography; she has exhibited at L'Agora de la danse in 2020, at St-Mathieu du Parc in 2021 and 2024, and at Galerie Espace in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

VALERIE CALAM | Costume Design + Construction, *Unraveled Bloom*

Valerie Calam is a dance artist and costume designer interested in finding pathways to refresh and support herself. She works with movement, fabric, patterns, sound, numbers, the nervous system, the body, and likes to edit/adapt/repurpose things. Val enjoys working alongside dancers, artists & other queer creatives and has a long history as a performer, teacher and choreographer in Toronto. She enjoys sewing and has been designing costumes for the past 10 years. She is the Membership & Operations Manager for CADA/East. She completed a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Choreography in 2014 at York U and is the recipient of the KM Hunter Award for dance.



Photo by Maizy Shepherd

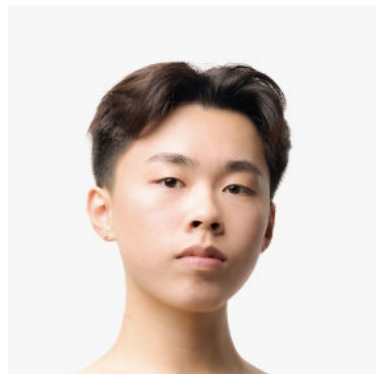
Photo by Karolina Kuras



TOM CAPE* | Performer, *The Light of Movement*

Tom Cape was born in Harrogate, England and trained at The Royal Ballet Upper School in London. He joined The National Ballet of Canada as an RBC Apprentice in 2024.

Photo by Karolina Kuras



RYAN KAO CHENG* | Performer, *The Light of Movement*

Ryan Kao Cheng was born in Walnut Creek, California and trained at New Ballet in San Jose, California and Canada's National Ballet School. He joined The National Ballet of Canada as an RBC Apprentice in 2024.

Photo by Claire Harvie



VICTORIA CHEONG | Sound Design, *Unraveled Bloom*

Victoria Cheong aka New Chance is a Toronto-based composer, producer and vocalist. As an active collaborator in Toronto's avant music and contemporary dance scenes, as well as a practicing astrologer, Cheong brings a wide array of influences to her artistic work. Her music incorporates both acoustic and electronic instrumentation, informed by studio experimentation, divination and embodiment. Central to her output is an interest in the way experience unfolds in time, and an insistence on the value of sensual and emotional aesthetics as modes that draw us toward meaning. Her most recent release is the concept record, *A Rock Unsteady*.

*RBC Apprentice, The National Ballet of Canada



CHRISTINA DE LA CRUZ | Performer, *BABAElan*

Christina de la Cruz was born and raised on Treaty 13 territory on the land known as Tkaronto to Filipino and Ethiopian migrants. She is a Hip Hop dancer, artistic producer, curator of dance and performance and waitress. She received a graduate degree in Cultural Studies and Critical Theory from McMaster University. Her concerns and curiosities include Black performance and building community.



MIMOSA HAQUE | Scenography + Floral Design, *Unraveled Bloom*

Mimosa Haque is a floral artist, designer, and sound practitioner working within installation-based contemporary art. Her work unfolds as immersive environments that invite slowness, attention, and embodied presence. Shaped by her lived experience between Bangladesh and Canada, her practice is attuned to place, memory, and perception. Drawing on inspiration from studies in neuroscience and psychology, she approaches flowers as both material and metaphor, translating emotion into form. Through spatial design and sound, her installations create quiet, sensory encounters that linger—spaces where feeling, time, and environment gently converge.



ZAHEER-ABBAS JANMOHAMED | Tabla Accompaniment, *zikr*

Zaheer-Abbas is a Toronto-based tabla player who brings the tradition of tabla to new contexts through his artistic practice and collaborations. His study of classical tabla with Shri Prafulla Athalye, senior disciple of Ustad Allarakha, and also with Ustad Shahbaz Hussain, has helped him to develop expressive depth and range on his instrument. He has played extensively in Toronto with various local artists at many of the city's well-known venues. He has also performed across Canada in a variety of classical, semi-classical, and contemporary settings, including appearances such as Sonic Landscapes (Surbahar) with Ustad Irshad Khan, Sufi folk music of Mukhtiyar Ali, and Rifflandia Music Festival. Zaheer-Abbas was a musician and musical contributor in WhyNot Theatre's award-winning staging of *Mahabharata*, which toured internationally in 2025.

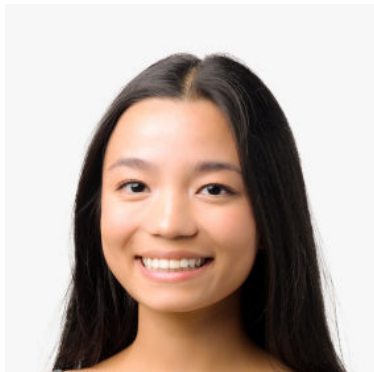


CANDACE KUMAR | Performer, *BABAElan*

Candace Kumar is a Filipino-Indian Fijian dance artist from Mississauga, Ontario. She began dancing at the age of 10, performing dances from across the Philippines, which are the roots of her artistry today. As a child of immigrant parents, dance is her devotion to the motherlands. Candace reimagines dance forms to tell stories of past, present, and future, embodying our shared humanity as we exist away from our ancestral homes. She channels movement to connect across space, time, and worlds, using art as a path to reimagine lost, new, and taken ways of our existence—unfolding the legacies of colonialism across land and people.

DIANE LABROSSE | Composer, *Sans collier, Physiographie d'existences*

A self-taught musician with a love of invention and the unexpected, Labrosse enjoys playing with harmonies, textures, and sounds. Present in the contemporary and improvised music scene for many years, she has participated in numerous major festivals in Canada, Europe, Japan, and Australia. She has written pieces for both conventional and unconventional ensembles (toy pianos, typists, boats, locomotives, etc.). She has conceived and spatialized several site-specific installations (endangered objects, a loudspeaker orchestra, an interactive installation) and created soundscapes for film, theatre, and contemporary dance. She has over 50 albums to her credit, most of which are on the Ambiances Magnétiques label. She was co-artistic director of Productions SuperMémé from 1978 to 2008.



KARIN LALDJISING* | Performer, *The Light of Movement*

Karin Laldjising was born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and trained at Canada's National Ballet School. She joined The National Ballet of Canada as an RBC Apprentice in 2024.

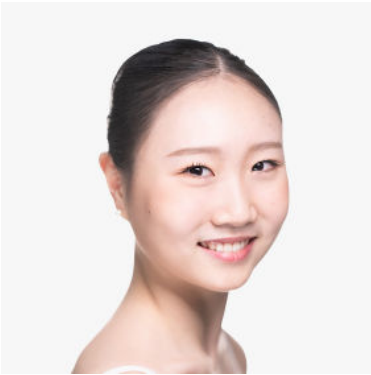


JOÃO MASSEI* | Performer, *The Light of Movement*

João Massei was born in São José dos Campos, Brazil and trained at Canada's National Ballet School. He joined The National Ballet of Canada as an RBC Apprentice in 2024.

SCOTT MCCABE | Rehearsal Director, *Sans collier, Physiographie d'existences*

Scott graduated from The Juilliard School with a BFA in 2013. They joined the Ate9 Dance Company in Los Angeles and was a member from 2013 to 2015. Scott then joined the Compagnie Marie Chouinard and was a member from 2015 to 2020. Scott is now a freelance artist in Montreal and works closely with Catherine Gaudet. Over the past four years, Scott has collaborated with Motrya Kozbur to create a movement class for people without formal dance training. The class aims to give people the opportunity to explore their bodies in a safe, controlled, and queer-positive environment. Scott is also an Ilan Lev practitioner, having been certified since 2022.



HEEWON MOON* | Performer, *The Light of Movement*

Heewon Moon was born in Seoul, South Korea and trained at The Royal Ballet Upper School in London. She joined The National Ballet of Canada as an RBC Apprentice in 2025.



CELIA MORRISON* | Performer, *The Light of Movement*

Celia Morrison was born in Kansas City, Missouri and trained at The Rock School for Dance Education in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She joined The National Ballet of Canada as an RBC Apprentice in 2025.



HARIKISHAN S. NAIR | Dramaturgy + Conceptualization, *zikr*

Harikishan S. Nair is a multi-faceted dance artist, choreographer, teacher, dramaturge, mentor, and rehearsal director based in Toronto. As the Founder and Artistic Director of Regatta Kala Kendra, he is a leading voice in the South Asian dance community, known for his deeply embodied practice and his commitment to fostering equity in the Canadian dance sector. Born and raised in Kerala, India, Harikishan, he is fluently trained in Bharatanatyam, Mohiniyattam, and Kuchipudi, and his extensive performance career has taken him across India, the UK, the USA, and Canada. He has collaborated with celebrated artists including Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, Madurai R. Muralidharan, Dr. Menaka Thakkar, Janak Khendry, Brandy Leary, Harikrishnan, and Lata Pada. His artistic practice is rooted in both lineage and innovation, balancing tradition with a contemporary sensibility. Harikishan's choreographic works and teaching residencies are regularly presented at major festivals and institutions across North America. He is also the Co-Founder of ATAM Arts Collective, Associate Artistic Director of ĀNANDAM Dancetheatre, and Co-Director of the South Asian Dance Alliance of Canada (SADAC). His artistic and leadership journeys have been supported by the Metcalf Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, and Toronto Arts Council, recognizing his vital contributions to reshaping Canada's artistic landscape through a South Asian lens.



MARC PARENT | Lighting Designer, *AVES*

Marc Parent has been a lighting designer for more than thirty years. Specializing in contemporary dance, he has collaborated with many choreographers in both locally and internationally, including Daniel Léveillé, Danièle Desnoyers, José Navas, Lucie Grégoire, Jocelyne Monpetit, Peggy Baker, and more. Additionally, Marc works in theatre with directors Denis Marleau, Martin Faucher and François Girard. In the world of Contemporary and Neo-Classical Ballet, he has designed lighting for international choreographers, including Kader Belarbi (*La Bête et la Belle*), Mauro Bigonzetti (*Les Quatre Saisons*), Didy Veldman (*TooT*, *Le Petit Prince*) et Stijn Cellis (*Noces*, *Cendrillon*, *Le Sacre du Printemps*), Annabelle Lopez Ochoa (*Vendetta : storie di mafia*), and most recently, Ivan Cavalleri (*Gisèle*, *Roméo et Juliette*) and Jayne Smeulders (*Cendrillon*). Marc was nominated twice for Lighting Design by l'Académie québécoise du théâtre and received 2 Dora Mavor Moore Award in 2013 and 2016 for 'Outstanding Lighting Design in Dance'. He is currently a freelance Lighting Designer for Dance and Theatre.



MITHUN REZA | Vocalist, *zikr*

Mithun Reza is a distinguished vocalist, dancer, and cultural educator whose work bridges the classical traditions of Bangladesh with the contemporary diaspora experience in Canada. His musical journey began in childhood with a rigorous foundation in classical music and Rabindra Sangeet, which he later transitioned into a formal academic career. Reza holds a degree in Music from the University of Dhaka, specializing in Folk Music and Culture. His artistic philosophy is deeply rooted in the mystic traditions of Bengal, drawing inspiration from the spiritual and philosophical works of legendary poets such as Fakir Lalon Shah, Hason Raja, and Shah Abdul Karim. Reza is a practitioner of "total performance," a traditional Bengali form that seamlessly integrates singing, dancing, and acting. This multidisciplinary approach is further informed by his extensive training as a classical dancer in the Bharatnatyam and Kathakali forms, which he has performed professionally since 2003. Now based in the Greater Toronto Area, Reza continues to serve as a vital link between heritage and the next generation. As the founder of IM CREATIVE LAB, he leads initiatives that engage the Bengali diaspora in traditional cultural activities, ensuring that folk music and ancestral oral traditions remain a vibrant part of Canada's multicultural landscape. Through his performances, Reza offers audiences a profound immersion into the soulful, rhythmic, and philosophical heart of Bengali folk heritage.



FELIX RUSSELL * | Performer, The Light of Movement

Felix Russell was born in Leicester, England and trained at the European School of Ballet in The Netherlands. He joined The National Ballet of Canada as an RBC Apprentice in 2025.

ANNE THÉRIAULT | Dramaturgy Assistant, *Sans collier*, *Physiographie d'existences*

A unique creator and performer, Anne Thériault has been forging collaborations with artists from diverse backgrounds for over fifteen years: with composer Martin Messier, she co-created **Derrière le rideau, il fait peut-être nuit** and **Con grazia** (FTA 2011 and 2016); with Louis Bouvier, Virginie Reid, and Léandre Bourgeois, a requiem taking place within the exhibition *La conjugaison des pensées complexes* (2023–2025). She has engaged more specifically with theater through *La femme qui fuit* by Alexia Bürger and *La Fureur de ce que je pense* by Marie Brassard. An artist-in-residence at Usine C from 2019 to 2021, she presented *Récital* there, as well as at the FTA (2018) and, more recently, at the FURIES and Poème en août festivals (2023). Since 2021, she has been a visiting researcher at L'L-, a performing arts research organization based in Brussels, where she is expanding a field of research focused on aging and contemporary writing.

MIYU TOBATA* | Performer, *The Light of Movement*

Miyu Tobata was born in Tokyo, Japan and trained at the Vaganova Ballet Academy in Russia. She joined The National Ballet of Canada as an RBC Apprentice in 2025.



Photo by Karolina Kuras



VIHAAN | Vocalist, *zikr*

Vihaan is a Toronto-based Indian classical vocalist whose music bridges tradition and contemporary expression. He began his training in 2013 under Dr. Aditya Sharma and currently trains under Dr. Tara Kannan, both disciples of Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar, representing the Gwalior, Jaipur, and Agra gharanas. Vihaan holds a diploma in Indian Classical Vocal with distinction from the prestigious Gandharva Mahavidyalay in Mumbai, India. As a performer, he presents both classical and ghazal repertoires and has appeared at private concerts and notable festivals, including the Virasat Music Festival in India, where he received the Best Student Vocalist award in 2013.

Beyond the classical stage, Vihaan actively collaborates with Toronto-based artists across genres, including projects with Static River. He is currently working on an upcoming album that reimagines Indian classical music and ghazals through collaborations with jazz and electronic musicians.

ANGÉLIQUE WILLKIE | Dramaturge, *Sans collier, Physiographie d'existences*

A performer, singer, playwright, and educator, Angélique Willkie has pursued her career in Europe, where, for 25 years, she has performed with dance companies and independent projects throughout Europe, notably with Alain Platel/Les Ballets C. de la B., Jan Lauwers/Needcompany, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Helena Waldmann, and as a singer with the Belgian world-music group Zap Mama. She received the 2022 Performer Award from the Prix de la danse de Montréal for her solo performance *Confession Publique*. Her dramaturgical work includes dance, music, and circus-theater projects. An associate professor in the Department of Contemporary Dance at Concordia University and co-director of LePARC, the performing arts research hub at Concordia's Milieux Institute of Arts, Culture, and Technology, her current research interests are firmly rooted in interdisciplinary artistic creation, with a particular focus on decolonial dramaturgical practices and performer dramaturgy. She is chair of the President's Task Force on Anti-Black Racism at Concordia and special advisor on Black integration and knowledge.

Creative Team

Photo by Sooji Kim



THEO BELC | Lighting Designer courtesy of The National Ballet of Canada's Creative Action Programme's Emerging Lighting Designers Initiative

Theo Belc is a production freelancer based in Toronto. They graduated from the Performance Production Program at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson), where they focused their studies in lighting design and scenic arts. Their motivation lies in using their multi-disciplinary interests to engage, support, and create meaningful stories that contribute to the Toronto arts scene.

Photo by Rodrigo Viotti



KATHY LE | Stage Manager, Toronto Programmes

Originally from Surrey, BC, Kathy Le is a movement collaborator in Tkaronto, Ontario. Kathy is a George Brown dance performance alumnus where she went on to receive mentorship from Hanna Kiel upon graduating. Additionally, her performance skills extend beyond the body to assist her as stage manager for movement-based shows. She takes pride in all aspects of production and enjoys bridging the gap between the creative and technical sides of a show. Between her work on and off stage, you may have seen her credited with Human Body Expressions, Rock Bottom Movement, the Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre, Fall for Dance North, the Garage TO and more.

Photo by Kristina Smith Photography



MARIANNA ROSATO | Production Manager

A Toronto native, Marianna Rosato received her BFA as a graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University. Marianna spent three years as the assistant stage manager for Toronto Dance Theatre before working as a freelance SM in Toronto. During that time, she stage managed works for Fujiwara Dance Inventions, Tiger Princess Dance Projects, Adelheid Dance Projects, Bouchardanse, Blue Ceiling Dance, the Older & Reckless series for Moonhorse Dance Theatre, the National Ballet School of Canada, and many others. Outside of dance, Marianna spent 11 seasons as the Production Stage Manager for Mainstage Theatre Company. She was delighted to return to her alma mater later in her career to teach Dance Stage Management for almost a decade. In 2014, Marianna began stage managing for Citadel + Compagnie, and after receiving a Metcalf internship became the company's Production Stage Manager in 2017.



SIMON ROSSITER | Lighting Director

Simon Rossiter is a lighting designer who occasionally designs scenery. A long-time collaborator with Citadel + Compagnie he has created designs for more than 18 of the company's works, including *Contes pour la fin du temps*, *A Perfect Day*, *Four Old Legs*, *#lovesexbrahms* (Dora award), *Looking for Elvis* (Dora nomination), *Against Nature*, *Les Paradis Perdus*, and *From the House of Mirth* (Dora nomination). Elsewhere, he has created more than 275 designs, which have been honoured with 3 Dora awards from nine nominations for Outstanding Lighting Design. Simon is also Business Agent for the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.



ELIAJAH STEFURA | Technical Director

Eli (He/Him) is a technician in the city of Toronto. He began working professionally in the industry since his graduation from Toronto Metropolitan University in 2019. Eli joined the Citadel team in 2021.

TOR Selection Committee



SIERRA CHIN SAWDY | Artistic Producer, Citadel + Compagnie

Sierra Chin Sawdy is an independent dance artist, arts educator and arts administrator based in Tkaronto. A graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University, Sierra has performed with esteemed companies and choreographers, including Alys Pires Dance Projects, Sylvie Bouchard/BoucharDanse, Brodie Stevenson, Laurence Lemieux/Compagnie de la Citadelle, Dancetheatre David Earle, Dusk Dances, Emma Kerson, Hanna Kiel, Peggy Baker Dance Projects, Aria Evans/Political Movement, Yvonne Ng/Tiger Princess Dance Projects, and Toronto Heritage Dance. Her career has taken her across Canada and to international stages in China, Europe, Mexico and the UAE, where she has shared her dynamic artistry and passion for movement with audiences worldwide.



ALYSSA MARTIN | Artistic Producer Creative Action, The National Ballet of Canada

Alyssa Martin is a choreographer whose work merges surrealism, humour, and modern dance. Based in Toronto, she is the Founder and Artistic Director of Rock Bottom Movement, a company celebrated for its bold approach to dance-theatre. She has created new work for The National Ballet of Canada, Alberta Ballet, University of the Arts Zürich, Toronto Dance Theatre and in collaboration with Compagnie de la Citadelle. Her work has been presented at Holland Dance Festival, Royal Ballet's International Draft Works, Fall for Dance North Festival, Fluid Festival and Citadel Live among many others. Known for transdisciplinary collaborations across theatre, circus, film, musical theatre, and opera, Martin has worked with The Coal Mine Theatre, The Stratford Festival and Canadian Stage. Her work has been recognized with awards including numerous Dora Mavor Moore Awards in both the Dance and Theatre divisions, and a nomination for the Johanna Metcalf Performing Arts Prize. Alyssa also works as the Artistic Producer, Creative Action at The National Ballet of Canada. She is currently the artist-in-residence at Fall for Dance North Festival.



ANDREA NANN | Dance Artist and Founder of Dreamwalker Dance Company

Andrea Nann/Dreamwalker (she/her/they) dances to reach across distance and to experience herself and others in celebration of possibility, plurality, imagination, originality, and belonging. She is a contemporary dance artist, deep listener, founding artist of Dreamwalker Dance Company, and founder/co-creator of Conscious Bodies, an embodied community practice. Andrea is graduate of York University's Department of Fine Arts and has contributed to the creation of new works by over 70 dance and theatre creators from across Turtle Island. She danced with Danny Grossman Dance Company for 15 years and has been recognized for outstanding choreography, performance, contributions to the performing arts sector and for her work in community actioning. For Andrea, dance and embodiment can shift attitudes and ways of being, tuning us into what makes each of us distinct, to what we share, and ultimately how we can live together in wonderment and peace.



KWASI OBENG-ADJEI | Multidisciplinary Artist, Choreographer and Educator

Kwasi Obeng-Adjei is a Brampton-based multidisciplinary artist, emerging choreographer, and dance educator whose practice is rooted in traditional African forms and African street dance. With over a decade of experience in the dance community, Kwasi has built an impressive performance and creative resume, including appearances with the Pan Am Games, Giants of Africa Gala, Raptors Halftime Show, Asake Canadian Tour, AfroFest, Luminato Festival, Kultureland Festival, and many more. Kwasi has made a continued commitment to promoting and sharing dance within his community. He recognizes the importance of strengthening the dance ecosystem in Ontario and providing tangible opportunities for youth—beginning with workshops, programs, and cultural events that celebrate and educate. Kwasi's choreographic journey expanded in 2023 when he presented an original work at Night Shift, produced by Citadel + Compagnie and co-presented with Fall for Dance North. Drawing on a free-form, exploratory approach, his work is driven by connection, cultural lineage, and curiosity.

Festival Activity List

Opening Night Receptions

April 8, 9, 15, 16, 2026, following the performances

No need for explanation! Enjoy a drink, grab a bite and share in the delight that is dance.

FREE



Still With Us: Stories of HIV/AIDS and Dance in Canada

A conversation with Christopher House

April 9, 2026 @ 6PM

Christopher House and Laurence Lemieux invite you into conversation about recently published book *Still With Us: Stories of HIV/AIDS and Dance in Canada*.

Edited by House, the book memorializes the lives of over fifty individuals in the Canadian dance community who were lost to AIDS, and features a piece written by José Navas on William Douglas, whom his work *AVES* pays tribute to and whom Lemieux worked with closely.

This conversation is free to attend. Books will be available for purchase in advance of the discussion and following the evening's performance of *AVES*.

FREE



Artist Talks

Facilitated by Nova Bhattacharya

April 9 & 16, 2026

Following the opening night performances of MTL Programme 1: *AVES* (April 9) and MTL Programme 2: *Sans collier, Physiographie d'existences* (April 16) stay on for intimate conversations with creators José Navas and Louise Bédard facilitated by the one-and-only Nova Bhattacharya.

FREE



Blind and Slow: A Journey Through Movement and Mindfulness

Workshop with José Navas

April 10, 2026, 1 – 3PM

Don't miss this opportunity to move with seasoned choreographer and performer, José Navas, in this transformative workshop.

Designed to challenge traditional perceptions of movement, participants will be tasked with relying on physical sensations and intuition to experience completely new ways of moving. From seasoned practitioners to new movers, all are welcome.

DETAILS + REGISTER



Love Songs to Bill

Film Screening

April 10 & 11, 2026 @ 6:30PM

Want to learn more about the making of *AVES*? Join us in our lower studio in advance of the April 10 & 11 presentations for a screening of *Love Songs to Bill*, a documentary tracing the genesis *AVES*, José Navas' homage to William Douglas.

Screenings are free to attend. We encourage *AVES* ticket holders to come early, for this behind-the-scenes sneak peek of what's to come.

FREE

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

Production Manager: Marianna Rosato

Artistic Producer: Sierra Chin Sawdy

Outreach + Box Office Coordinator: Rachana Joshi

Financial Director: Simon Rossiter

Digital Producer: Juliette Coleman

Assistant to the Artistic Director: Christina Litt Belch

Front of House Coordinator: Kéïta Fournier-Pelletier

Technical Director: Eliajah Stefura

Bookkeeping: Morgyn Aronyk-Schell

Poster Design: Messenger

C+C BOARD OF DIRECTORS

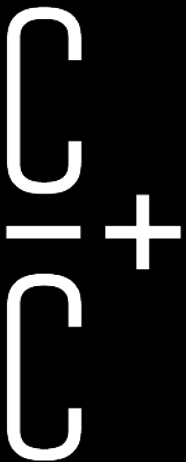
Terry Gardiner, Chair

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

The 2025/26 season is generously supported by



PRESENTING PARTNERS

Night Shift 2025 is co-presented with Fall for Dance North

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

Venue Sponsor ArtHubs Events and Daniels Spectrum

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS

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

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Delta Bingo & Gaming

FOUNDATIONS

Lindy Green Family Foundation
The Joan and Jerry Lozinski Foundation
Metcalf Foundation
Bulmash-Siegel Foundation
Kingfisher Foundation
IATSE Local 58 Charitable Fund
Janice Lewis and Mitchell Cohen Foundation
Edward A. Krucker Charitable Foundation

SEASON SUPPORTERS

\$25,000 and above

Jerry & Joan Lozinski
Jim & Sandra Pitblado
Larry Williamson

\$10,000 - \$24,999

David Binet
Bob and Mary Gore
Gretchen Ross
Michael Trent and Kirk Bryant

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Bruce Cooper
Ricardo Gomez-Insausti
William Milne
Peggy Baker Dance Projects
Simon Rossiter

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Terry Gardiner
Christopher House
Lucille Joseph
Laurence Lemieux
Lynn McDonald
Micheline McKay and Richard
Comparey*
Janet Minor
Gretchen Ross
Robert Sirman

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous
Sandra Dudley
Janice Oliver
James Robertson
Karen Sparks - In Memory of
Donald Ross

\$10 - \$499

Barry Adam
Miriam Adams
Heather Alloway
Peggy Baker
Laurie Barrett
Mimi Beck
Sylvie Bouchard
Linda Brett

*Monthly donor

Jon Buckley
Canada's National Ballet School -
In Memory of Donald Ross
Ginelle Chagnon
Marie-Josée Chartier
Andree Chenier
Barbara deKat*
Raquel delCarmen
Miran Desoysa
Yasmin Emery
Mary Fogarty - In Memory of
Laura Wiebe
Gordon Foster
Patricia Fraser
Judith Gallant
Jessie Garon
Ken Gass
Judith Gelber - In Memory of
Donald Ross
David Genoway
Randy Glynn
Peter Goring
Peter Gossage
Lux Gow-Habrich
Pamela Grundy
John Gzowski
Andrew Hartley
Maxine Heppner
John Holcka
Joanna Ivey
Karen Kaeja
Niki Kemeny
James Kudelka
Benoit Lamarche
Coreen Lapointe
Christiane Lemieux
Lilia Leon
Janice Lewis
Deborah Lundmark
Susan MacPherson
Christopher Mahepath
Tom McGillis
Coralee McLaren
Jean McNeil
Hedy Minten
Connor Mitton and Carleen
Zouboules

Keith Morino
A.J. Morra
Jeff Morris
Derek Morton
Christine Moynihan
Yvonne Ng
Selma Odom
Kaz Ogino
Gail Packwood
Joan Phillips
Haley Polinsky
Natasha Poon Woo
Spencer Poon Woo
Shan Richardson
Ralista Rodriguez
Karen Sasaki
Deema Shahin
Lane Slayer
Jane Spooner
Nancy St-Pierre
Vicky St. Denys*
John Stanley
Myra Stephen
Jacqui Strachan
Annie Szamosi
Anisa Tejpar
Kylie Thompson
Gail Vanstone
Blair Voyvodic
Anne Watrous
Dianne Weinrib
Mary Ann West
Phyllis Whyte - In Memory of
David Leibson
Karen Wierucki
Suzanne Wilcox
Laura Wills
Claire Wootten
Christine Wright
William Yong
Takis Zourntos
K S

Your Name Here



Interested in
supporting C+C?

Click HERE for
more info.

This list represents all donations made between January 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026.
It has been updated as of March 31, 2026. We apologize in advance for any omissions.

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE
DETAILS

OCT 15-17 / 2026

THE CITADEL:
ROSS CENTRE FOR DANCE

CO-PRESENTED WITH



CALL TO ARTISTS

APPLICATION

DEADLINE:

FRI APR 17 / 2026

11:59 PM EDT



/ NIGHTSHIFT /

We are thankful to the original caretakers of the traditional territory on which we present this work: the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples. We acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Alongside this acknowledgement, we encourage you to get to know our neighbours and learn more about how you can support the important work they do in our community.



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 LEARN
MORE**