

# DANCE ONTARIO

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*We honour and acknowledge the traditional caretakers of this land: the Mississaugas of New Credit, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Anishinaabe and the Huron-Wendat. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work in their community, on this territory. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.*

**Sunday 27 January, 2019**

## **JHHA PERFORMANCE COMPANY**

### *WAKANDA*

**Choreographers:** Jade Jager Clark & Isaiah Isaacs – Peck

**Music:** Produced by DJ Mr Akil D

**Lighting Design:** Jade Jager Clark & Arun Srinivasan

**Dancers:** Reasa Bowen, Cassie Yeboah, Xavier Montague, Taylor Townsend-Ward, Jelani Jackman, Isaiah Blackwood, Kiara Brooks, Oneesa Graham, Mya Wynter, Awina Muraliy, Phylicia Miller, Justine Coroza, Danielle Pillegi, Zia Virola, Tanisha Rao, Renee Romolo, Devan Houston, Aiiiswhin Muraliy, Nathaniel Scarlett, Samuel Brown, Naren Bermejo, Katerina Crespo, Monique Davidson, Jenna Mitchell, Isabella Cedrone, Breanna Spence, Shante White, Layla Pottinger, Jessica Field, Noah Zulfikar, Juvani Reid - Hudson, Galia Spence, Evanna Eyubeh, Imani Nyambaka, Tre George, Rylie Clemons, Chloe Partap, Shaumiga Ranjan, Kenna-Marie Linton, X'avier Waldron, Nate Sutherland, Cayden Martin, Isaiah Isaacs-Peck

About JHHA PC: Established in 2009 the Company has performed well over 300 Shows and appeared on the Ellen DeGeneres Show. Renowned for their custom created pieces created for corporate, sport, charity and community events performed by Canada's most talented young Hip Hop Dancers they continue to WOW audiences around the province and internationally through their acclaimed youtube and instagram accounts. Visit [www.jadeshiphopacademy.com](http://www.jadeshiphopacademy.com) Follow @jadeshiphopacad

## **Alysa Pires Dance Projects**

### *both/and*

**Choreography:** Alysa Pires in collaboration with Sydney McManus and Tori Mehaffey

**Music:** David Lang, The Haxan Cloak, Frank Sinatra

**Audio Mixing and Sound Design:** Adam Sakiyama

**Lighting Design:** Arun Srinivasan

**Dancers:** Sydney McManus and Tori Mehaffey

About the work: *both/and* explores the duality of public and private life. In the wake of our current mental health epidemic, this work investigates the difference between the face we show the world and what is happening behind that mask. A version of *both/and* premiered in 2016. Reimagined with generous support from Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre.

About Alysa Pires Dance Projects: Alysa Pires Dance Projects was founded in 2015 as a home for choreographer Alysa Pires. Through highly dynamic physicality and quiet tenderness, APDP explores humanity at its most intimate and its most extreme. APDP made its critically acclaimed full-length debut at Toronto Fringe 2016 with *Exterminating Angel*. Outside of APDP, Pires has created works for the National Ballet of Canada, Ballet Kelowna, Ballet Edmonton, Ryerson University, and more. Alysa was one of the 2017 winners of Northwest Dance Project's International Choreographic Competition and her upcoming projects include New York City Ballet's Choreographic Institute.

[www.alsapires.com](http://www.alsapires.com) Instagram: @alsapiresdanceprojects Twitter: @alsapiresdance

## **¡Arte Flamenco!**

*Traditional Flamenco dances in Solea por Bulerias and Siguiriyas*

**Choreographer:** Elena La Comadre

**Music:** traditional Flamenco arrangement by Justin Brown

**Lighting Design:** Arun Srinivasan

**Dancers:** Kiyo Asaoka,  
Sonia Bibershtein,  
Catherine Mais,  
Yurika Hinkle

**Musicians:** Justin Brown (guitar),  
La Pili (song),  
Derek Grey (Cajon)

About the work and us: ¡Arte Flamenco! has been around since 1990 when it was originally formed to represent Spain during the CNE's 'Say Si to Spain' exhibit in the summer of 1990, Its school counterpart was established several years later. Being the founder and artistic director of ¡Arte Flamenco! , the focus right from its conception has always been to present Flamenco dance works that embrace and honor the traditional style of this artform.

In the late 90's til 2006 the focus of ¡Arte Flamenco! embraced the idea of Flamenco dance theatre – where by means of the dance, cante, guitar, and poetry – a story was been told. Themes that were chosen have been profound in nature and rooted in human experience.

Transitioning from that period put more focus on school projects allowing the school to have an active role in presenting successful sold out performances since 2008 with our 2018 performance of Danza Española con Amor.

## **Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre**

*Artistic Director Deborah Lundmark*

### **A DAY OF LIGHT**

**Choreography and Direction:** Hanna Kiel, in collaboration with the dancers

**Original Music:** Greg Harrison and Frances Miller, with cello by Blanche Israël

**Costumes:** Krista Dowson

**Lighting Design:** Arun Srinivasan

**Dancers:** Hana Bogacz, Alexander Faraday, Paris Forbes, Lola Jenkins, Jeffrey Lapira,  
Kaiya Lee, Makenna Martinez, Jaedyn Richards, Sydney Runions, Daniel Santokie, Melodie Yeung

**Understudies:** Claire Finlayson, Nikkie Jeong, Daryn Wells

*Thinking of the winter solstice, I was inspired to celebrate the arrival of the first lengthening day. Though it goes by so quickly, it is like our innocent time and we cherish those moments in the sun forever.*

Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre is a Toronto based repertory company of exceptional young artists founded in 1980 by Artistic Director Deborah Lundmark and Managing Director Michael deConinck Smith. Highlights include appearances at Toronto's Princess of Wales and Royal Alexandra Theatres, five invitations to the Canada Dance Festival and tours to Singapore, Malaysia, China, Scotland and NYC. As a pioneering dance touring company for young audiences, CCDT has introduced 300,000 young people to dance through its Ontario Arts Access program. In 2018 CCDT was featured in Harbourfront's inaugural Junior International Festival and at Fall For Dance North, Toronto's premiere international dance festival.

[www.ccdt.org](http://www.ccdt.org) @ccdtcompany [facebook.com/CanadianContemporaryDanceTheatre](https://facebook.com/CanadianContemporaryDanceTheatre)

## **Makeda Benitez & Persamenco**

### *DENTRO* (commission)

**Choreographer and Dancer:** Makeda Benitez  
**Persamenco:** Bahram Aghakhan: Flamenco Guitar  
Pedram Khavarzamani: Tombak (percussion)  
Araz Salek: Tār (strings)  
**Lighting Design:** Arun Srinivasan

*DENTRO*, referring to flamenco's inward turn of the hands, speaks to a gesture of welcoming and drawing in. In this dance, we welcome each other's creative voices as fellow travelers and invite audiences to step inside the work to feel the power of *duende*, the flamenco spirit, as we have found it in our individual artistic journeys. In creating this piece together, we examine how we are separately drawn inward to flamenco, while joining artistic spirits that transcend geographical boundaries.

About the Artists: The recipient of the 2014 Dance Ontario Jacque Foesier Youth Dance Award, Makeda Benitez graduated from Toronto's Academy of Spanish Dance and is pursuing advanced studies in Seville, Spain at the Fundacion de Flamenco Cristina Heeren. She has also studied with Inmaculada Ortega (Madrid), Juan de los Reyes, "La Lupi", Ursula and Tamara Lopez (Seville), and taken Master Classes with Manuel Betanzos, Javier Latorre, Myriam Allard, and Adela Campallo. Makeda has performed at various Ontario festivals with the Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Company as well as choreographing and performing in shows with Tablao Flamenco Toronto, at cabarets in Seville, at numerous private events, and as a guest artist in the TV series Shadowhunters.

Founded in 2016, Persamenco is a Toronto-based, Persian-derived musical ensemble. Makeda and Persamenco first collaborated on performances for the 2017 Tirgan Festival of Persian Culture at Harbourfront. Makeda and Persamenco would like to thank Dance Ontario for their support in commissioning this piece. Special thanks also to production coordinator Lisa Nabieszko.

## **Decades Collective**

### *SIX* (commission)

**Choreographers/Performers:** Mi Young Kim, Maxine Heppner, Sashar Zarif,  
Mafa Makhubalo, Jennifer Dallas, Atri Nundy  
**Creative Facilitators:** Banuta Rubess  
**Concept Development:** Jill Carter, Lee Maracle, Troy Emery Twigg,  
**Sound Scape and Costume:** The ensemble  
**Lighting Design:** Arun Srinivasan

About the work: Together across decades to dance this earth, Decades Collective is collaboratively questioning ideas of ownership v.s. relationship, here and now. We would like to thank all the First Nations artists and their ancestors for the wisdom that has been illuminating this inquisitive journey. We would like to thank Dance Ontario, Toronto Arts Council and Hub14 for supporting this work.

DECADES is an ad hoc dance ensemble that spans generations (7 Decades). They work within a variety of ancestral influences, their inherited forms, and at the same time the diversity of the contemporary world They live in. This commission is their first creation.

## **Belinda McGuire Dance Projects**

### *CELLO COUNTERPOINT*

**Choreographers:** Belinda McGuire  
**Music:** Thomas Köner and Steve Reich  
**Lighting Design:** Arun Srinivasan  
**Dancer:** Belinda McGuire

About BMDP: Established in 2007, Belinda McGuire Dance Projects (BMDP) supports the research, development, production, and presentation of international and collaborative multidisciplinary dance performance as a means to stimulate the conscientious capacity of wide-ranging publics through exposure to creative experimentation and artistic excellence.

[www.belindamcguire.org](http://www.belindamcguire.org)

[@BMcGuireDance](https://www.instagram.com/BMcGuireDance)

## Presentation of *Jacque Foesier Youth Dance Award*

This annual award seeks to recognize exceptional young dancers ages 19 & under who are not only pursuing excellence in their craft but go above and beyond making a difference in the lives of others and/or contributing to the dance community. In 2016/17, due to the generosity of the Foesier Family and their friends Martha Jarrell, Roberta Kremer & the Finkelstein Family, Gerald P. King, Susan Lapell, Amy Stone, Karlee Vukets, this award will carry a cash contribution towards the recipient's ongoing training.

**2018-19 Recipient**  
**ETHAN BUCHOLTZ**

### Rock Bottom Movement

*hollow mountain* (excerpt)

Partial nudity and foul language

**Choreographer:** Alyssa Martin

**Music:** Sydney Herauf

**Lighting Design:** Arun Srinivasan

**Dancers & Collaborators:** Drew Berry, Mary-Dora Bloch-Hansen, Samantha Grist and Natasha Poon Woo

About the work: We've dropped ourselves like eggs about to be poached in an inner mountain atmosphere spawned from a sisterhood of imaginations! This is our newest work in progress, we're thinking about cosmically terrifying places, alter egos, relationships and The Future. Originally developed in September 2018 at The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.

About Rock Bottom Movement: Rock Bottom Movement is an interdisciplinary performance company dedicated to blurring the boundaries of theatre and dance in pursuit of refreshingly approachable absurdity. We create our work by blending joyful rigour, open hearts and radical spontaneity in order to attempt to access the surprising. Founded by Artistic Director and Choreographer, Alyssa Martin in 2012, we have since created and presented 5 full length works and numerous short form works, earning two Dora Award Nominations and the Canadian Stage Award for Direction. We have presented as part of SummerWorks Performance Festival, Next Stage Theatre Festival, DanceWorks CoWorks and as the Dance Ontario Creative Commission. Our work has taken us to Louisiana, New York, Banff, Ottawa, Hamilton and Kitchener.

[www.rockbottommovement.com](http://www.rockbottommovement.com) Instagram: @rockbottommovement

### Larchaud Dance Project

*CONTINGENCY*

**Concept:** Jennifer Robichaud

**Choreographers/Performers:** Jennifer Robichaud & Jase Cozmic

**Music:** Edit by Jennifer Robichaud - Wax Tailor, DJ Habett, Rob Stone (Chill Bill Instrumental)

Alexandre Desplat, Jeff Steinberg, Carrie Rudzinski, Phil Kaye

**Collaborators/Performers:** Cody Berry, Taylor Bullock, Jamie Yakabow, Mateo Galindo-Torres (creation)

*CONTINGENCY* is an encounter, an unsettling, a disruption, an uneasiness, a vulnerability, a strategy. It is a (series of) future event(s) or circumstance that cannot be predicted with certainty, usually causing chaos and forcing alternate decision-making. It is an escape plan devised in the event that what you believe is put to the test. *CONTINGENCY* is Larchaud Dance's precursor to our 2020 premiere *Exit Strategies: The Larchaud Escape Room Experience*.

About LARCHAUD DANCE: Founded in 2004, *Larchaud Dance Project* combines dance, theatre, parkour and film to create site-specific and theatrical performance. Their work is known for incorporating elements of popular culture and delving into themes rooted in the human condition, while exciting audiences with electric physicality and gravity-defying movement. Pioneers of this hybrid form of art experience, they are now recognized for their highly stylized partnering (a hybrid of contemporary technique and breakdance aesthetics), cutting edge choreography/concepts, ever-evolving site-specific performances, and vibrant workshops. Under the Artistic Direction of Jennifer Robichaud, this Toronto-based company guarantees to captivate audiences with high voltage athleticism, compelling presence, and a unique approach to performance art.

IG: @larchaud [www.larchaud.com](http://www.larchaud.com)

## Arabesque/YRArts

Four Dance Companies from Arabesque Canada

**Choreography:** Yasmina Ramzy

**Lighting Design:** Arun Srinivasan

**Costumes:** Deborah Shaw, Yasser, Mahmoud El Ghafar.

### 1. Arabesque Dream Company

an ensemble of dancers living in several different cities from Michigan, Quebec and Ontario. Rehearsals are online.

Performing a remount of "*Habaytak Bisayf*" of Arabesque Dance Company 2014.

**Music** by Arabesque Orchestra.

### 2. Arabesque Earthshakers

was created as a reaction to predominant false media narratives of body health and beauty. Earthshakers perform to the inspiring spoken words of Maya Angelou in her poem "Phenomenal Woman".

### 3. Arabesque Folklore Troupe

perform a style of dance called *Raqs Al Ballas* (Dance of the Pot). It is from the Falahi (farmer) people of Lower Egypt or the Nile Delta depicting daily activities of collecting water from the Nile.

**Music** supplied by Mohamed Salah (Reda Troupe, Egypt).

### 4. Yasmina Ramzy Arts

a newly formed ensemble that will go forward into the future with a project in Fall of 2019 called "*Joy*". YRA continues the artistic and internal journey of Arabesque while Arabesque Dance Co. now becomes a more commercial ensemble for community events.

This first choreography of YRArts called "*Oyoun*" is currently a work in progress

**Music** by Arabesque Orchestra.

ArabesqueCanada.com

## Tanveer Alam

in partnership with New Blue Emerging Dance

### *SAMEERE*

**Choreographer:** Tanveer Alam

**Music:** Atul Desai, Anil Srinivasan and Sikkil Gurucharan

**Lighting Design:** Arun Srinivasan

**Dancers:** Prajakta Dravid and Tanveer Alam

**Outside Eye:** Harikishan S Nair

**Costumes:** Sheetal Oak's Motif

About Tanveer Alam: Tanveer Alam creates and presents contemporary dance works through kathak, an Indian classical dance form he continues to study under guru Sandhya Desai. Distinguished by dynamic spins, strong musicality, graceful movement, and subtle expressive qualities, the choreography showcases the immense capacity of innovation within the vocabulary of kathak. Tanveer strongly believes in creating works that evoke a sense of togetherness and representing the South Asian diaspora of young artists.

#### About the work:

If you look closely, a gentle breeze can tell a tale of romance... *Sameere* — wind in Sanskrit, as well as companion in Urdu, is one such tale which demonstrates the dancers connection to melody, poetry, and each other.

## Ryerson School of Performance — Dance Program

Excerpt from *FIDDLE EMBRACE* or the act of hugging in a restless or nervous way.

**Choreography:** Anne Plamondon

**Sound and Music:** Olivier Fairfield, Tomaso Albinoni, Olafur Arnalds, Alice Sara Ott and The Chopin Project

**Lighting Design:** Simon Rossiter **Costume Design:** Rachel Forbes **Stage Manager:** Melanie Nablo

**Dancers:** Anastasia Botos, Brayden Cairns, Matthew D'Dippolito, Vania Dodoo-Beals, Cassandra Grose, Grace Harvey, Margaux Labossiere, Christian Lavigne, Judy Luo, Jessica Mak, Alessia Mallozzi, Kathleen Pick, Brianna Rennie, Hannah Robertson Michael Rourke, Hannah Shikatani, Evan Webb, Carleen Zouboules

About the work: This work was co-commissioned by Ryerson and Fall for Dance North (FFDN). It premiered in November at Ryerson Dances 2018 and will also be presented as part of the FFDN Festival 2019 at the Sony Centre.

About Ryerson School of Performance Dance Program: One-of-a-kind, conservatory style environment offering rigorous daily professional training in four dance disciplines (ballet, modern, contemporary and jazz) alongside direct collaboration with visiting guest artists and major arts organizations. This core training is combined with related studies in improvisation, composition, partnering, music, acting, film and extensive creative work. Integrated into the students' education is a broad selection of academic studies in history of theatre and dance, anatomy, production elements, global theatre, entrepreneurship and many more. All courses support our mandate, which is to ensure that our graduates are highly skilled, uniquely versatile, entrepreneurial and articulate artists who can actively contribute to the art form and advocate for themselves and for the arts as a whole.

\*\*This work is for general audiences.

<https://ryersonperformance.ca>

## Avinoam Silverman Dance

### *IN BETWEEN*

**Choreographer:** Avinoam Silverman

**Music:** J.S Bach Concerto In D minor for two Violins and Orchestra

**Lighting Design:** Gabriel Cropley

**Costume Design:** Krista Dowson

**Dancers:** Liana Bellissimo, Aly Mackenzie and Tyler Gledhill

About the work: This work was commissioned by the Canada Israel Cultural Foundation for their Spotlight on Israeli Culture Festival 2018. The work explores the tension that one feels when torn between two places.

About Avinoam Silverman Dance: AS Dance is a project based company which focuses on a wide variety of themes such as Spirituality in a materiel world, moving forward with our traditions and beyond them and many more... Artistic Director Avinoam Silverman former dancer with the National Ballet Of Canada likes to mix things up combining classical ballet with contemporary dance and theatrical expression. Avinoam Silverman dance had it's first self produced show premier on July 2017 to two sold out houses at the Dancemakers Centre for creation. In 2018 the company performed Anvil 18 at Dance weekend and was invited to be a part of the Spotlight on Israeli Culture Festival.

**Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Company**  
*EXCERPTS FROM RECENT PRODUCTIONS*

**1. *Río del Tiempo* (Romance)**

No matter what journey you take, that is the river leading to the sea.

**Choreography:** Juan Ogalla

**Dancers:** Pamela Briz, Virginia Castro, Paloma Cortés

**2. *Por La Bahía* (Alegrías)**

Water, sun, wind and our hearts in perfect harmony with land and sea.

**Choreography:** Juan Ogalla

**Dancers:** Esmeralda Enrique, Pamela Briz, Virginia Castro, Paloma Cortés

**Musicians:** Benjamin Barrile, Guitar; Tamar Ilana, Vocals; Derek Grey, Percussion

***Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Company present their annual concert season  
May 3, 4 & 5, 2019 at the Fleck Dance Theatre***

**Tickets are now on sale at Harbourfront Centre Box Office**

**Please check out the company's website at [www.flamencos.net](http://www.flamencos.net). There are flyers out in the lobby about the company and their affiliate school, Academy of Spanish Dance.**

**PATRONS**

**Please remember to turn off all electronic devices.**

**Photography and videography of the performances are strictly prohibited  
unless contracted by the company for archival purposes**