

KAEJA & DANCEONTARIO present
CREATION • INNOVATION • MOMENTUM

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

A celebration of dance

Online film premiere

September 29, 2022

7:30pm EST



*“Through our deeply individual
histories and practices, we
form a powerful community...”*

Allen Kaeja

In Case of Emergency

Concept: Allen and Karen Kaeja
Curators: Aria Evans, Allen and Karen Kaeja
Director: Allen Kaeja
Cinematographer: John Marsonet
Composer: Edgardo Moreno
Editor: Olya Glotka
Presented by: Kaeja d'Dance and Dance Ontario

Performers:

Jim Adams	Kin Nguien
Jillia Cato	Bren Roy
Joshua DePerry	Jake Runeckles
Aria Evans	Lola Ryan
Nickeshia Garrick	Mio Sakamoto
Tamar Ilana	Katherine Semchuck
Allen Kaeja	Ashvini Sundaram
Karen Kaeja	Irma Villafuerte
Kalaisan Kalaichelvan	Ravyn Wngz

Crew:

2nd Camera/Gaffer: Gregory Bennett
Assistant Camera: Harvey Kingsley-Elton
2nd Assistant Camera: Ish Ali and Andrea Hernandez
Production Administrator: Jade Silman
Production Assistants: Mio Sakamoto, Elodie Kyra, Malcolm Snow, Ben Cox and Pritesh Meht

Audience Talk Back

Hosted by Samara Thompson
 With guests Karen Kaeja, Allen Kaeja, Aria Evans and Olya Glotka

For Kaeja d'Dance:

Artistic Directors: Karen and Allen Kaeja
Interim Managing Director: Raeburn Ferguson
Project and Communications Manager: Sarah Caraher

Funded by:

Department of Canadian Heritage (Support for Live Arts and Music Workers Fund)
 Canada Council for the Arts
 Ontario Arts Council
 Toronto Arts Council

For Dance Ontario:

Executive Director: Amy Hampton
Outreach Coordinator: Alan Faigal
Livestream Manager: Manuel Garcia

DANCEONTARIO

ABOUT DANCE ONTARIO

Dance Ontario is the province's umbrella dance organization and is central to the diverse sector's communications and networking systems. We provide management training, advice and industry information and interact with the general public on a daily basis promoting members' services and events. We advocate and are an active and thriving force in the dance community with members across Ontario including professional companies, independent dancers, choreographers and teachers, dance schools and studios, as well as writers, administrators, technicians and other members of Ontario's dance industry.

To find out more visit www.danceontario.ca

KAEJA

ABOUT KAEJA d'DANCE

Kaeja d'Dance is driven by a commitment to innovation in the performing arts through the expression of dance and gesture. We explore identity, personal stories and the complexity of the human experience by integrating the interconnected mediums of live performance, dance film, and community engagement. Kaeja provides platforms for and fosters the creation of new Canadian professional dance works which are featured locally and internationally that inspire connections between professional artists and the broader community. Established in 1990, Kaeja is driven by two distinct artistic forces, Karen and Allen Kaeja. Kaeja creates award-winning contemporary dance performances for stage, film & communities that have toured the world. The foundation of their stage and film creation began with fifteen years of Holocaust inspired dance works. Allen is the child of a refugee and Holocaust survivor. Kaeja presents local and international dance artists in Toronto through festival platforms, commissions and mentorships, creating with people of all identities, practices and ages. Passionate engagers of bridging professional and community dance art, Kaeja has received 40+ awards & nominations.

www.kaeja.org or contact urban@kaeja.org

ARTIST BIOS



Allen Kaeja is an internationally recognized and award-winning Choreographer and DanceFilm Director. The child of a refugee and Holocaust survivor, Allen has created 27 years of Holocaust inspired stage and film works. Overall, he's created over 210 stage works and choreographed 35 films. Co-Artistic Director of Kaeja d'Dance with Karen Kaeja, Allen's stage and film works have been featured in commercials, films and festivals around the world. He has received numerous national and international commissions, teaches Kaeja Elevations and Dance Film master classes worldwide.



Karen Kaeja (she/her) is a Tkaronto born Ashkenazi. An award-winning performer, choreographer, mentor, community builder and project instigator whose work intersects relational perspectives. "The mastermind behind Porch View Dances" Toronto Star, she develops performance platforms for collaborative relationships between dancers, everyday people and the body. Co-Artistic Director of Kaeja d'Dance with Allen Kaeja, her awards include the 2019 Dance Ontario Lifetime Achievement Award, the CDA "I Love Dance" Community Award and the Paul D. Fleck Fellowship for Innovation. She has been honoured with an American Choreography Award nomination and 7 Dora Mavor Moore nominations, including 4 for Crave (winning outstanding male). Karen is distinguished in The Canadian Who's Who, was a finalist for the 2020 TAF Celebration of Cultural Life Award and the 2017 TAF Muriel Sherrin Award for International achievement, the CDA Innovation Award, NOW's Best Local Choreographer and twice nominated for NOW's Best Dance Company. Commissioned and presented by performance series around the world, she has created over 70 dance works, continues to mentor, dramaturg and perform for many of Canada's brilliant emerging and established choreographers and was Stratford Festival's first movement dramaturg for Wendy and Peter Pan. Karen was the first resident dance artist for both MUN/Dance NL and the Guelph Dance Festival. Read Karen's complete bio and resume.

ARTIST BIOS



Edgardo Moreno is a Hamilton based composer that has been commissioned for projects in Canada, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Sweden, Argentina, England and USA. He has written scores for films produced by CBC, Bravo, City TV, NFB, OMNI, Ontario Arts Council, History Channel, TVO. He has worked extensively with contemporary dance choreographers creating sound design and musical scores. He is presently working in creating video and live sound pieces that are part of his Fireflyproject. His Film Double Exposure has screened in various film festival across Canada and will be part of exhibitions in Ontario in the coming months.



Olya Glotka is a Toronto-based, queer, award-winning filmmaker specializing in dance film and documentary. Through her art, her advocacy and social work, she blends her creativity with the desire to make our world a better place - one story at a time.



Aria Evans is an award-winning, queer, Toronto-based interdisciplinary artist working in dance, theatre and film. Aria is a certified Intimacy Coordinator and draws on their experiences of being multiracial to capture meaningful social and cultural themes through their interactive art. With a large-scale vision, collaboration is the departure point to their work created under their company POLITICAL MOVEMENT. As an active speaker, facilitator and curator, Aria advocates for inclusion and the representation of diversity, and uses their artistic practice to question the ways we can coexist together. www.politicalmovement.ca.

ARTIST BIOS



Classic Roots aka **Joshua DePerry** is a Bear Clan, Ojibway (Anishinaabe) from Long Lake 58 first nation. The heartbeat of the boreal north with a unique sound of pow wow techno and contagious basslines are what defines the unique sound of Classic Roots. His releases express a wide range of sounds from upbeat, tribalism and techno to groovy baseline sound, establishing a sense of cultural freedom that echoes through his music. He continues producing his own music which puts the crowd into euphoria and sweat. Through the inclusion of First Nations drumming and singing in his electronic compositions, he acknowledges the continued resilience of his nation. Ultimately, Classic Roots reminds people that they have the power to chase their dreams.



Nickeshia Garrick is a settler on the stolen land of Tkaronto and has performed on this land for over 25 years. They are unapologetically a Black, Queer Artist, who believes in the healing power of breath through raw emotion and movement and teaches this breathwork at the Toronto Film School. Along with teaching at TFS, Nickeshia is a Certified Personal Trainer and Pilates Instructor and often offers free and discounted sessions to the IBPOC LGBTQ2S+ community in Toronto. Nickeshia holds their BFA in Dance from Simon Fraser University (Vancouver) and is a Dora Mavor Moore, winning and multi-nominated artist.



Tamar Ilana's music and fierce talent reflect her life growing up in multicultural Toronto; accompanying her ethnomusicologist mother, on village fieldwork expeditions and on stage as a child; living in Ibiza, Barcelona, Paris and Seville and her Jewish-Indigenous background. Tamar founded her world music project, Ventanas, in 2011 with whom she has released three albums and been nominated for four Canadian Folk Music Awards including Best Traditional Singer. Tamar has collaborated with such renowned artists as Jesse Cook, Measha Brueggergosman, Manu Soto, Jim Creeggan (Barenaked Ladies), Suba Sankaran, Meesha Shafi, and Margaret Atwood. Tamar has also been featured in award-winning international musicals in New York, San Francisco, Washington DC, the UK and Germany. In 2020, Tamar co-founded the presenting arts organization FabCollab, and has since presented over 100 BIPOC women and minority artists at iconic Toronto venues and livestreamed to audiences of 40,000+ in partnership with the National Arts Centre.

ARTIST BIOS



Kalaisan Kalachelvan began his training in Bharatanatyam in Toronto, Canada and is a disciple of Guru A. Lakshmanaswamy from Chennai, India. Kalaisan is active as a dancer, choreographer, composer and musician. Having worked across many disciplines and communities of thought, he seeks to bring incongruous institutions together to build novel structures that reflect his interdisciplinary upbringing. Kalaisan has been presented at festivals across India, the USA and Canada. Kalaisan was invited by the National Ballet of Canada in the fall of 2019 as a guest choreographer to work with the company dancers in residence. He has had the privilege of working with many of the industry's most celebrated troupes, dancers and choreographers such as Akram Khan, Hari Krishnan, Janak Khendry, Lata Pada, Mavin Khoo, and Menaka Thakkar.



Lola Ryan: dancer, teacher, poet and writer. England to Ontario to Vancouver to Ottawa - for now. A lifelong love affair with change brings her to here, to now, to the glory of growth, to becoming everything she has lived for. After the joy of international athletic competition, walking the airy halls of academe, then the footlights and fanfare of dance and theatre, across the country and abroad, she now moves in new directions, into new worlds. "the time is now the way is forward dark matter brilliant beyond belief less traveled I lift the first foot...." (from Confession 2015)



Bren Roy is a multiply disabled, queer and trans wheelchair dancer, multidisciplinary artist, and community worker. They work in the overlaps of dance, circus, disability consulting, and mobility technology. They are particularly interested in the ways folks use technology to build bodies and minds that work for them and the lives they want to live, what influences those bodies and minds within the pressures of an ableist society (and how to resist), and who has access to the ability to build and/or resist, given the constraints of capitalism, white supremacy, and other oppressive structures. They have been doing research more recently in the right to repair movement, and how it expands the movement of disabled dancers across the Turtle Island, and internationally.

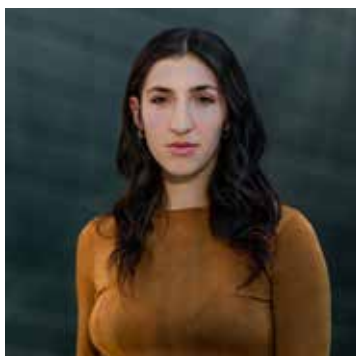
ARTIST BIOS



Jake Runeckles is a theatremaker, musician and producer based in Toronto. A studious kid, Jake began training in classical piano at 4 years old, and as a teenager, outside of a devotion to maths, sciences, and programming, Jake developed a love for musicals. Since training as an actor at George Brown Theatre School and the Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre, Jake has worked as an actor, musician, playwright, and producer for companies such as The Stratford Festival, Cahoots Theatre, Young People's Theatre, Clay and Paper Theatre, and Theatre by the Bay. Selected acting credits include *The Neverending Story*, *Henry VIII* (Stratford Festival); *I and You* (Outlook Theatre); *The Secret Garden* (Young People's Theatre).



Mio Sakamoto is a Toronto based performer, choreographer, and dance educator originally from Japan. She has performed (selected) *Crépuscule* by Marie-Josée Chartier, *October Sky* by Paul-André Fortier, *XTOD - SOLO DANCE XCHANGE* for Xtraordinary Japan Tour by Kaeja d'Dance, and *Mani.Deux* by Northfoot Movement for its premier at Fall for Dance North in 2019. Sakamoto's choreographic work (selected), *Submerge*, *reverie* (dance film), *Where Do We Go?* (dance film), *Systematic*, *Oblivious or Naive*, and *Cater To You*, were presented in Canada and Japan. She has recently choreographed for a new 30 min film project, *Know Not What* by Bow Echo Collective. She was Kaeja Elevation Choreography Assistant for the *Wendy & Peter Pan* production of the Stratford Festival in 2019/2020. In 2020, she received the RBC Newcomer Arts Award by Neighbourhood Arts Network (Toronto Arts Foundation). In 2021, she was selected for the first year-long Artist in Residence of Kaeja d'Dance.



Katherine Semchuk is a dance artist currently based in Tkaronto. Since graduating from The School of TDT, she has worked with Kaeja d'Dance, Mile Zero Dance, Nostos Collectives, Peggy Baker, The Platform TO, Tia Kushniruk, Mateo Galindo Torres, Meghann Michalsky, Sasha Ivanochko, and Naishi Wang. She feels liberated when she is able to act as a physical portal for her own and collaborator's stories, ideas and sketches. She is fascinated by the use of spirals, momentum and opposition/conflict in the body, and integrates these functions into her ever-evolving movement practice. Her passion for sharing has brought her to teach at The School of TDT, Canada's National Ballet School, Ballet Edmonton, and YYC Contemporary Training. Katherine continues to investigate her own creative practice and has presented her work at festivals and programs across Canada. Most recently, her duet with bassist/composer Julian Anderson-Bowes, 'In pieces', was presented at Fluid Festival 2021 in Calgary.

ARTIST BIOS



Ashvini Sundaram is a dance artist trained in bharatanatyam. Born in Singapore, raised in Vancouver and trained in Delhi, Ashvini explores questions related to embodied knowledge, identity and decoloniality through performance work. She receives ongoing training from internationally acclaimed artist, Rama Vaidyanathan, and pursues a Master of Fine Arts degree in dance at York University through the York Graduate Fellowship. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the Chrystal Dance Prize from Dance Victoria and Professional Development Grants from Canada Council for the Arts and BC Arts Council. Ashvini holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Behavioural Neuroscience from the University of British Columbia and is also professionally trained in vocal Carnatic music, South Indian rhythm, and ballet.



Irma Villafuerte is a Central American dance artist and educator based in Tkaronto. She is a first-generation daughter of refugees from Nahuat-Pipil Territory Kuskatan (Place of Jeweled necklaces), post-colonial El Salvador. She is a graduate of George Brown Dance; Her experience and training extend to Latin American and Caribbean dances, and Cuban Contemporary technique. She is a 2021 Toronto Arts Foundation Emerging Artist Finalist. Since 2017, she has embarked in a choreographic development through residencies with TDT Emerging Voices, Aluna Theatre, Dance Makers Peer Learning Network and George Brown Dance. Her artistic mission is embodying cultural, social-political and migrant narratives of marginalized and racialized communities. As a daughter of refugee parents, her passion for social justice, human rights, and political art making, is the driving force for creation in Irma's choreographic and performance work, leading her to incubate her solo on her historic memory "nudoDESnudo". She recently on the faculty at Casa Maiz' Semillas Latinas summer camp for Latin American children since 2013 as a dance instructor and choreographer; as of late, she is also a new member of the faculty of the Theatre Department at Randolph College for the Performing Arts as a Voice, Text and Movement educator. She's had the honor to perform, train and create in various arts festivals and workshops across the Americas and overseas, such as Night Shift 2020 Presented by the Citadel & Compaigne, Fall for Dance North's Open Studio, The Rhubarb

ARTIST BIOS

Festival, DanceWeekend Ontario, Aluna Theatre's Panamerican Routes Festival, RUTAS and Caminos Festival, Panamania 2015, La 12 Bienal de la Habana 2015 for (IN)DISCIPLINAS, Vanguardia Dance Projects Festival, Danza Corpus Annual Open Space Temporada in Matanzas, Cuba, International Dance Meeting by Danza Libre in Guantanamo, CounterPulse Performing Diaspora in San Francisco. She has been part of choreographic works by Santee Smith (Kahawi Dance Theatre), Alejandro Ronceria, Roshanak Jaber (Jaber Dance Theatre), Victoria Mata, Kaeja D'dance, Aria Evans (Political Movement), Ryan Lee, Derek Sangster, Tina Fushell, Arsenio Andrade, Sharon B. Moore, Jose Angel Carret (Danza Corpus), Esteban Aguilar (Danza Fragmentada, Cuba).



Ravyn Wngz "The Black Widow of Burlesque" is a Tanzanian, Bermudian, Mohawk, 2Spirit, Queer and Transcendent empowerment storyteller. Ravyn is an abolitionist and co-founder of ILL NANA/DiverseCity Dance Company. She is a co-founder of Black Lives Matter Canada, A co-founder of the Wildseed Centre for Arts & Activism, A Canadian Best Selling Author, Top 25 Women of Influence in Canada recipient of 2021, Ravyn is committed to eradicating all forms of anti-Black racism, settler colonialism systems of oppression while nurturing Black and Indigenous healing in communities.



Kin Nguien is a choreographer and creative director born in Ukraine and now based in Toronto, Canada. Kin's mixed cultural upbringing has shaped her artistic expression, where both European and Asian cultures coexist. By balancing these two philosophies, she creates work that challenges the cultural, societal biases and stigmas within the communities she's in and encourages people to face the uncomfortable realities of life by placing significance on the values of compassion and empathy. Kin is best known for her "Project Lullaby" film series, which focuses on mental health awareness and aims to break social stigmas around mental illness. She is a co-artistic director of KINAJ.co, a teaching faculty of Rhythm2Dance, and a Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists member. Her latest film, Project Lullaby: Choice, has recently won a Narrative/Storyline Award at the Homescreen Movement Film Festival 2022 in San Francisco.

ARTIST BIOS



Trinidad and Tobagonian **Jillia Cato** has been in Toronto as a dancer, singer and with KasheDance since February 2020 and now Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement Director. She has an unstoppable passion for theater, youth in arts and Caribbean inspired dance and music. Since arriving, she's worked with Jumblies Theater, University of Toronto, Wind in the Leaves Collective and Sensorium Center for Digital Arts and Technology at York University. Prior, she had been an internationally touring soca artist until 2019 with Engineering and Performing Arts Degrees. Utilizing her engineering project management in performance she has also worked in Trinidad and Tobago with Patrons of the Arts Foundation, Carifesta, National Theater Arts Company and most recently, after performing her songs live, she released her solo EP "Black Cinderella".



Jim Adams is a multi-racial artist with roots in the Swampy Cree, Innu, Mohawk and Welsh communities. Jim grew up listening to stories of the land shared by his relatives, and it is these stories that shape Jim's work as a multi-disciplinary artist.



Samara Thompson | Host

Samara Thompson is an award winning independent choreographer and dance educator, specializing in the integration of computer technology with dance. She has presented her choreography across Canada, was the recipient of a Paula Citron Dance Award for choreography, has spoken at the CORPS de Ballet International Conference, and written for the Dance Current. She trained in Canada and the United States with many notable artists and performed in works by Dana Reitz, Carol Anderson, Chuck Davis, and Trish Armstrong. Samara was a co-host on the Toronto radio show Evi-Dance, and one of the founding producers and co-hosts of Turn Out, where she interviewed local and international guests, such as Ohad Naharin, Bill T. Jones, Crystal Pite, and Christopher House. She currently teaches dance at York University.

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www.chimeraproject.org

Toronto's **Annex** October 31

We welcome and encourage applications from any person
identifying as a minority in their community.

*mentored by Karen Faera of Faera's Dance / North View Dances



Photo by: David Hou artists: Arif Nipestem, Montana Summers, Haia Joseph, Eleanor Van Veen

FUNDERS



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