

# DanceWeekend'25

## DANCEONTARIO

*Unplugged*

**JOIN US ON THE DANCE FLOOR!**

**February 22-23, 2025**

CITY DANCE CORPS, TORONTO ON  
[danceontario.ca](http://danceontario.ca)

Photo by: Kirit Mistry



# DanceWeekend'25

DANCEONTARIO

*Unplugged*

## **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.*

## **DEDICATION**

Dance Ontario would like to dedicate DanceWeekend'25 to Patrick Parson. In loving memory and recognition of his dedication and generosity to DanceWeekend, the Dance Ontario Board and to the dance community across this province. Patrick served on the board and the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee shaping our organization through difficult times. Thank you for sharing the dance floor with us and may you forever dance in our hearts.

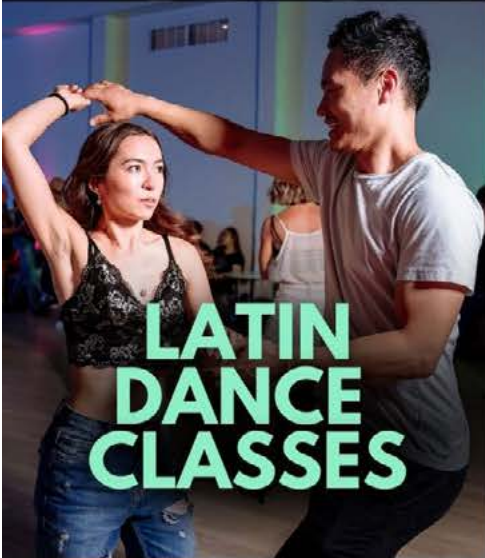
**+ [Click here to view Saturday dance events.](#)**

**+ [Click here to view Sunday dance events.](#)**



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# SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2025

## Workshops

### **Kathak Dance Fundamentals Workshop with Sukriti Sharma**

Sukriti Sharma began her Kathak training under the guidance of Guru Sh. Ashok Chakraborty and further refined her artistry under the esteemed mentorship of Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee Guru Sh. Krishan Mohan Mishra, the elder son of the legendary Pt. Shambhu Maharaj. She has completed an intensive 10-year training program in Kathak and holds a Post Diploma from the prestigious National Institute of Kathak Dance - Kathak Kendra, New Delhi, along with a degree from Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh. Recognized as a graded artist with Delhi Doordarshan, Sukriti has actively deepened her practice by participating in numerous workshops under renowned Kathak maestros, including Smt. Shama Bhate, Pt. Birju Maharaj, Smt. Alokparna Guha, Deepti Gupta, and Madhu Natraj Kiran. With extensive teaching experience in India and three years of tenure in Canada, she brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her students. As a long-standing member of Padmashree Smt. Shovana Narayan's repertoire 'ASAVARI,' Sukriti has performed at esteemed festivals across India and internationally. Her notable performances include Kathak Mahotsava, Surya Festival, Vasantotsava, Konark Festival, Khajuraho Festival, Kathak Mahotsava Canada (2016 & 2018), Carrasauga Festival, ArohaFest (2017-2019), The Great India Festival, and Angikam, among others. She has been an integral part of productions choreographed by her gurus, including Sh. Krishan Mohan Mishra, Sh. Jai Kishan Maharaj, Smt. Asavari Pawar, Smt. Shovana Narayan, Smt. Maitryee Pahari, Smt. Malti Shyam, and Shailja Nalwade. In addition, she has collaborated with prominent Canada-based Kathak artists such as Hemant and Vaishali Panwar, Deepti Gupta, and Tanveer Alam. Sukriti's notable achievements include her participation in the danceAdvance Choreographic Mentorship Program by Sampradaya Dance Creations under Smt. Nahid Siddiqui and her solo debut at the festival "Momentum," curated by Sampradaya Dance Creations. She recently toured India as part of 'Mandala,' a production by Sampradaya Dance Creations. Additionally, she was featured in the National Ballet of Canada's 'Sharing the Stage' program as a musician in Tanveer Alam's work Haziri. Most recently, she contributed to Tanveer Alam's creative project Muhandis.

### **Brazilian Dance Workshop with Newton Moraes**

Newton Moraes Dance Theatre is a renowned Brazilian dance company founded by choreographer and dancer Newton Moraes. The company is celebrated for its vibrant and diverse works that blend contemporary dance with elements of Afro-Brazilian culture. Since its inception, Newton Moraes Dance Theatre has focused on exploring themes of identity, social issues, and cultural heritage through innovative and expressive performances. The company has earned recognition both within Brazil and internationally for its ability to create emotionally powerful and visually captivating works, often highlighting the richness of Afro-Brazilian traditions. Newton Moraes himself is known for his pioneering contributions to contemporary dance in Brazil, and his company remains a vital part of the country's cultural landscape.



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## Workshops

### Salsa with City Dance Corps (Matt Grand and Taylor Hunt)

City Dance Corps is Toronto's main dance facility offering the largest variety in dance styles and dance classes, with over 70+ group classes weekly. Experience the most Innovative and cutting edge classes lead by industry pros! Classes offered for Adults and Youth of all levels. Beginner to Professional levels. Drop-in classes Special Workshops Performance classes Private coaching Event Entertainment and more! City Dance Corps offers room rentals for rent, workshops, private lessons, castings, auditions, film, photoshoots, and more! Our mission is to spread the love of dance and provide a space that is encouraging, professional, and for everyone: no matter where you come from or how much dance experience you have. We carefully retain the learning experience that is key to the art of dance and put learning first. City Dance Corps has fostered many of Toronto's emerging professional dancers and choreographers. We've also teamed up with world-class artists and brands, helped choreograph hundreds of first wedding dances, helped train beginner dancers to become the dancers of their dreams, and watched our tiny Youth dancers grow into Adult dancers (and some even to CDC instructors!). While we take dance very seriously, we also pride ourselves on welcoming dancers of all ages and levels into our safe, positive, and friendly space. As an established Toronto dance facility, City Dance Corps has had thousands of students from all over step through our studios.

## DanceWeekend'25 Dance Party with DJ Grouch

Featuring performances by:

### Coco Collective presented in partnership with *dance* Immersion Calabash

A dance and live percussion narrative on how African-diasporic communities engage in everyday social relationships with their vessels, tied to local food sovereignty. Inspiration centers on the transatlantic connections of the calabash to gather, contain, transport, and transcend offerings in African and Caribbean communities.

**Choreographer:** Collette "Coco" Murray

**Music:** Coco Collective

**Dancers/Performers:** Collette 'Coco' Murray, Kwanza Msingwana, Sherwin Charles, Whitney Charles, Kimberley Charles, Nicole Powlette, Christian Powlette, Kobena Acquaa-Harrison

Coco Collective is a 10-year, multidisciplinary, intergenerational ensemble offering performance, culturally relevant and responsive arts and community-engaged projects from African and Caribbean artistry. This collective integrates live African-indigenous percussion, West African and Caribbean folk dance, and education for its audiences. Under the artistic direction of dance

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artist-scholar Collette 'Coco' Murray, collaborators hold 20 years of experience as artists bringing neotraditional music-dance systems to teaching engagements, residencies, research-creations and alternative spaces.

**dance Immersion** is a charitable non-profit organization established by Vivine Scarlett in 1994 to produce, promote, and support dancers and dances of the African Diaspora\*.

Our award-winning programs offer presentation, artistic skill development, and networking opportunities for Blacks in dance, serving artists who practice contemporary and traditional movement forms from Africa, the Caribbean, North America, South America, and Europe.

With decades in service, **dance Immersion** experiences considerable success in connecting dance artists across Canada and around the world.

\*The African Diaspora refers to communities around the world that are descended from the historic, primarily forced, movement of peoples from the continent of Africa.

**MOMENTUM**  
CAREER INSIGHTS & NETWORKING EVENT  
WITH ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Friday March 7, 2025, Zoom  
9:00AM - 11:00AM PST | 12:00PM - 2:00PM EST

**ÉLAN**  
PERSPECTIVES DE CARRIÈRE ET  
ÉVÈNEMENT DE RÉSEAUTAGE  
AVEC DES ORGANISATIONS DU PAYS ENTIER

Vendredi 7 mars 2025, Zoom  
9 h 00 à 11 h 00 HNE | 12 h 00 à 14 h 00 HNP

Panelists:  
Angela Mahoney (Conférencière)  
Michael Caldwell (Conférencier)  
Sophie Dow (Conférencière)  
Lisa La Touche (Conférencière)  
Giulia Tripoli (Animatrice)

Host:  
P. Megan Andrews (Animatrice)



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ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL / CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO



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## **The Chimera Project** **Soft (Excerpt)**

A searing summons towards the wisdom of animalistic intuition found within.

**Choreographer:** Malgorzata Nowacka-May

**Dramaturge:** Karen Kaeja Original

**Music:** Eric Cadesky

**Dancers / Performers:** Mio Sakamoto / Sebastian Hirtenstein

**Rehearsal Director:** Malgorzata Nowacka-May

**Original Creation Cast:** Tavia Christina, Christian Lavigne, Louis Laberge-Côte, Amy Hampton, Sebastian Hirtenstein, Ryan Kostyniuk, Dana Macdonald, Mio Sakamoto

## **Esperides** **Bellydance**

A Middle Eastern dance in the Beledy style with a drum solo

**Choreographer:** Evyenia Karmi

**Music:** Ya Leyl & Drum Solo

**Dancers/Performers:** Evyenia Karmi, Paraskevi, Maureen

Evyenia Karmi is a dancer of Greek heritage from Toronto. She has been dancing for over 30 years, including regular performances for the Greek and Arabic communities.

An instructor for both Parks & Recreation and Continuing Education/TDSB E for many years, she continues to choreograph, and perform at cultural events and festivals with her dance troupe, Esperides. Evyenia Karmi is the author of the award winning book "Quintessential Bellydance".

## **Ragamalika Mohanraj** **Keerthanam (Devi Neeye Thunai)**

*Keerthanam* is a dance composition that is an abhinaya item, or a dance item that is composed to glorify Gods thru interpretive dance. As a dance composition, Keerthanam is a piece that focuses on "Bhakthi" and devotion to God. Devi Neeye Thunai is a Keerthanam on Goddess Meenakshi, who grew up as a princess and was taught both martial and fine arts. Upon encountering Lord Shiva, she realizes that he is her intended husband. The dancer seeks blessings from the Goddess who fostered the growth of Tamil language and is exalted by Saraswati and Lakshmi. Keerthanam is in Ragam: Keeravani Talam: Adi

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**Choreographer:** Ragamalika Mohanraj

**Music:** sung by Preethi Mahesh

**Dancers/Performers:** Ragamalika Mohanraj

Ragamalika Mohanraj is an IT Engineer by profession , an Indian Classical dancer by passion and a loving mother to her baby girl. She is a 1st Generation Artist/Immigrant from South Asia to Canada.

She commenced her journey in Indian Classical dance form of Bharatanatyam from the tender age of 4. She currently continues her training in Bharatanatyam with Guru's Shri. Shijith Nambiar and Guru Smt. Parvathy Menon from Samradhya, Chennai (Virtually).

She began training in the Indian Classical dance form of Odissi under Smt. Barnalee Sarkar from Shubham School of Performing Arts, Bangalore (Virtually) in 2019. She has also completed a course on Natyashastra and Karanas (Basics of Indian classical dance forms) under Guru. Vithya Arasu. She has also actively explored other styles of dance forms (Hip Hop, Indian Contemporary) and body conditioning (Calisthenics, Yoga) in India to enhance her skills as a dancer.

In Canada, her passion intrigued her to explore different avenues in dance. This led her to enroll into the Martha Graham Technique in Contemporary in the Toronto Dance Theatre.

She has collaborated with several freelance dancers across North America and provided opportunities for women who have a passion for dance but have constraints such as career, kids etc. She aims to provide a safe space for women to continue their passion.

## **Korean Dance Studies Society of Canada (KDSSC)**

### **Buchaechum (Korean Fan Dance)**

The Korean fan dance (Buchaechum) is a graceful, traditional performance where dancers use vibrant fans to create flowing patterns, mimicking nature. It blends elegant movements with storytelling, symbolizing beauty, harmony, and cultural heritage.

**Choreographer:** Mi Young Kim

**Performer:** Dorothy Cheung, Janggo playing: Mi Young Kim

The Korean Dance Studies Society Canada (KDSSC) is a dance organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Korean heritage while embracing artistic excellence and contemporary Canadian influences.

Established in 1979 by Artistic Director Mi Young Kim as the Mi Young Kim Folk Dance Institute, it evolved into KDSSC in 1987. For over four decades, this charitable organization has educated and trained individuals of all backgrounds in Korean dance and music comprised by two notable groups: the Mi Young Kim Dance Company, -an award-winning professional ensemble blending traditional and contemporary dance, with performances across Canada and internationally - and the Soo Ryu School of Dance and Drum, which offers recreational and professional training in



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Korean dance and drumming, supporting careers in research, performance, and teaching.

KDSSC's signature event, the Soo Ryu Dance Festival, has been a biannual tradition since 2003, featuring esteemed artists such as Jung Ae Noh, Jeffrey Chan, William Lau, Kozakura Sensui, and Zab Maboungou.

### Susannah Haight

#### PACING

Pacing is a philosophical inquiry into time's collapse and humanity's fraught relationship with impermanence. Through sound-responsive light, falling sand, and choreographed entropy, dancers Tia Kushniruk and Clarke Blair embody the tension between decay and resilience, crafting a haunting meditation on futurity's fragility and the relentless pull of the present moment.

**Choreographer:** Susannah Haight

**Designer:** Susannah Haight

**Additional Creative Team:** Darren Shaen, Sol Macpherson, Tia Kushniruk, Clarke Blair

**Dancers Performers:** Tia Kushniruk, Clarke Blair

Susannah Haight is a Toronto based multidisciplinary artist and dance maker from Toronto. Her practice spans performance art, dance, film, and photography, blending these disciplines to craft cinematic worlds that immerse audiences in poetic alternative realities. Haight began her career as a performer, studying at L'École de danse contemporaine de Montréal, where she graduated in 2017. As a performer, she has had the pleasure of working with renowned choreographers Andrea Pena, Marie Chouinard and Caroline Lauren-Beaucage. Her work has been showcased at Nuit Blanche Toronto with "Untitled - Clock Piece," a durational installation that bridges performance and ecology. Internationally Susannah has had the pleasure of working with brands like Paloma Wool and KARA NYC, Rua Carlotta, where she directed and performed in innovative performance films for social media campaigns. She has also had the pleasure of working with renowned Contemporary Circus collective People Watching. Through her interdisciplinary and collaborative approach, Haight continues to redefine storytelling, crafting immersive works that inspire profound human connection and challenge conventional artistic boundaries.



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### Nisha Ray Batu Nritya

Batu Nritya, a rhythmic exploration in Odissi brings out temple sculptures of Orissa into life. Batu - brings out the technical details and sinuous aesthetics of Odissi.

**Choreographer:** Padmavibhushan Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra

**Music:** Pandit Bhubaneswar Mishra

**Dancer:** Nisha Ray

Nisha is an Odissi dancer of Mrudanga by Enakshi. Born and raised in Toronto, Nisha has always had an interest for her Indian culture and heritage. Nisha has been learning Odissi since the age of 6. Nisha loves expressing herself through the sculptural postures and movements of Odissi. It makes her feel empowered and confident. Nisha has performed at various platforms throughout Canada and the USA. She loves learning new pieces and the story behind them. She hopes to continue her passion for dance and share her love for dance to future generations.

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## **Dance Break - Blame is on the Boogie with Alan Faigal**

Alan Faigal is an educator and community animator who teaches for Ryerson University's Early Childhood Studies Program. Alan's dance training has been in Hip Hop and Urban based genres. He studies and performs Bollywood Dance under the direction of Lopa Sarkar of Divine Heritage Artistry. Pedagogy centers on family support and social justice. His mentorship of practicum students includes the cultivation of self and professional identity. Alan is also the National Youth Outreach Director for Culture Shock Canada, in that role he has designed and implemented community dance programs for ages 2.5 to 18 all across Southern Ontario. Alan has been a movement specialist in the fitness/wellness industry for over 17 years. As a canfitpro PRO trainer he trains and certifies group fitness instructors. He has recently become an ambassador for the Masala Bhangra Workout. Dance floors and academic lecture halls are avenues for his dynamic teaching methods.

## **Sara Porter Productions**

### **TADA ! (today)**

An excerpt of Bad Poetry: Live in [your town]!"

**Choreographer / performer:** Sara Porter

**Creative collaborator:** Katherine Duncanson

"Bad Poetry: Live in [your town]!" is a developing new show. Part lecture-demonstration, part contemporary dance performance, part Queer clown turn, "Bad Poetry: Live in [your town]!" is a testament to how loving one's own bad poetry can lead to self acceptance. It's a dance piece. It's a support group. It's a world view.

Sara Porter is a multi-disciplinary performer and writer celebrated for her daring imagination and absurdist sense of humour. Sara centres her work in a feminist, Queer worldview and deals with the body as a point of personal reflection. Born in Nova Scotia, she has created over 25 works since 1990, presenting, performing and teaching across Canada, in the US and the UK. Her signature one-woman show Sara does a Solo toured Canada and US for four years. She was awarded a 2019 Chalmers Fellowship to research performance at the intersection of Memoir & Movement and her next full solo work Getting to know your Fruit was an exploration of the roots and fruits of the family tree. In 2022, she created L-E-A-K, a duet that plays at the edges of eco-sexuality and an erotic relationship with the ocean. Sara is currently developing two shows: Bad Poetry: Live in [your town]! an interactive show about the joys of poetry and failure, and Hello Sunshine about her experience living with sun allergy. She is a member of Intergalactic Arts Collective Studio in Toronto where she teaches, works and performs.

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## **Ensemble Topaz**

### **Setara: Tajik Pop Dance**

Ensemble Topaz reprises the dance “Setara,” originally performed as backup dance live in concert, as backup to Tajik Pop Star Saddridin Nadmudinov.

**Choreographer:** Paromita Kar

**Music:** SADRIDDIN NADZHMUDINOV

**Dancers/Performers:** Paromita Kar, Heather-Ami Cook, Kinga Zak

Ensemble Topaz is a Toronto-based dance company dedicated to traditional and contemporary dances of Central Asia and South Asia, including from the cultures of Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, India, and Pakistan.

## **Chameleon Coalition - Alli Robb**

### **I Don't Feel Like Dancin'**

This piece is about the joy that dance can bring to mundane moments, and its powerful ability to get people out of their heads and into happiness. It's the epitome of the phrase “dance like no one's watching!”

**Choreographer:** Alli Robb

**Music:** I Don't Feel Like Dancin'

**Dancers/Performers:** Blythe Russell, Felicia Jackson, Mélina Patry, Nikaya Jageshar, Shayla Vu

Alli Robb is a multidisciplinary artist based in Toronto. She is a dancer, choreographer, teacher and creative, who uses the arts as an avenue for self-discovery. She is a graduate from Toronto Metropolitan University's BFA Performance Dance Program. Alli primarily trains and teaches in jazz, contemporary, hip hop, house, and ballet. Miss Robb has performed works by Gibney Company, Rock Bottom Movement, and Human Body Expression. Most recently, Alli performed in Night/Shift through The Citadel; for Aimee Yoncé Shennel from Canada's Drag Race; and was choreographer and creative producer of a 40-minute production entitled “RAM” in London Fringe. She teaches and choreographs for various studios around the GTA. In the coming months, Alli will be performing and choreographing for Fever After Dark, creative directing for CREO's upcoming show, and completing her Holistic Art Therapy Certification. Alli is eager to share her voice and passion with the community!



CANADIAN CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE

artistic director **DEBORAH LUNDMARK**

# AUDITIONS

**FEB. 23** AGES 11-13  
ACCELERATED TRAINING  
PROGRAM DANCERS

**MARCH 2** AGES 14-19  
COMPANY + APPRENTICE  
DANCERS



ccdt

2025/26

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2025**

## **DJ Grouch**

Born in Panama, the Toronto native has always been around music. He has performed with various Canadian and international artists, traveling across North America (Canada and the U.S.) and Europe. With over 30 years of experience, Grouch has played in almost every club and venue in Toronto. He has been a special guest DJ on several occasions at the Raptor's halftime show. He is currently the DJ for Maestro Fresh Wes and Fito Blanco and is part of Toronto's spanglish Hip Hop group, Los Poetas. As of late his main focus has been on his production skills, releasing various edits, remixes and original tracks under the name, Grizart

Grouch has been teaching the art of DJing for over 15 years. He is currently an instructor at the Trebas Institute, Regent Park School of Music, Remix Project, 4sound Music, Play De Record and is a mainstay in Toronto's nightlife.

## **Jennifer Wan - Production Manager**

Jennifer's a Chartered Professional Accountant, who left the corporate world to transition her lifestyle to allow more movement in her day-to-day as a Pilates instructor, stage management, show production and consultant.

As an avid dancer, she engages and connects with the dance community to help educate dancers and artists on financial literacy. By leveraging experience gained throughout her career she is able to help organizations such as Dance Ontario further their cause and support our local talented dancers and artists.

# **Sunday, February 23, 2025**

## **All-Ages Dance Party with Alan Faigal**

### **Featuring Performances by:**

#### **Raoul Pillay**

#### **Solo**

Originally from Zimbabwe Africa, Raoul began his professional dance career training upon arrival to Canada. His love for learning opened many doors to professional dance companies such as The Moon Runners, Gadfly Dance and Holla Jazz, thus creating a name in the community through mentorship, theatre and outreach programs. Performing at venues such as Canada Goose, The Four Seasons Hotel, Nuit Blanche, T.U.D.S etc. helped him bridge the gap between urban movement and pushed his career into the commercial industry. Since then he has not only worked on film but has also choreographed his own work and has established a name, internationally through battles and social media content. Always striving to be the best of himself, he continues

**Sunday, February 23, 2025**

to travel, perform and learn from the creators of each individual style, to get the full context of not only the history but the dance itself. He is currently trained in Vernacular Jazz, House Dance and Hip Hop and aims to share his love of movement by creating safe spaces, where dance is explored and movement is our voice.

## **City Dance Corps Youth Company**

### **One Short Day**

**Choreographer:** Stéphanie Visconti

**Music:** One Short Day, Wicked Soundtrack

**Performers:** Belen Tobar-Dyer, Benjamin Camilleri, Cerise Handspiker, Genesis Mayers, Ruthie Wittenbrick, Shernette Gueli, Sienna Valente, Sophia De Souza

The Youth Performance Company (YPC) at City Dance Corps is a dynamic ensemble of emerging young artists dedicated to excellence in performance. Under the artistic direction of Sadie Cahill, YPC showcases versatility across contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, and theatrical dance, bringing compelling storytelling and technical precision to the stage. With a repertoire ranging from high-energy ensemble pieces to emotionally resonant choreography, they have performed at renowned events, concept video projects, and theatrical productions. YPC dancers are passionate, expressive, and committed to their craft, delivering performances that captivate audiences with their artistry, athleticism, and vibrant stage presence.

## **Maxine Heppner**

### **Tractor - excerpt**

TRACTOR is our vehicle. Dance is the work. Cultivation is in progress. This excerpt is from the current 50 minute model that was previewed at the Theatre Centre just a few weeks ago is invented by Maxine Heppner and engineered with Rumi Jeraj and Christian Lavigne last spring. Katie Adams-Gossage then stepped in to shine it up with her own tweaks and character.

**Choreographer:** Maxine Heppner

**Music:** Biomass

**Dancers/Performers:** Katie Adams-Gossage, Rumi Jeraj

MAXINE HEPPNER, creator and educator in dance and inter-medial performance, is a life-long independent artist known for large-scale works (“audacious”) and intimate chamber pieces (“breath of fresh air”). Since the 1970’s her work has been honoured by awards and commissions in Canada, Europe and Asia, by wisdom of mentors and by trust of collaborators and colleagues. She has founded several arts learning programs, and arts advocacy organizations, and taught at universities, institutions and communities worldwide. Deeply embedded in non-Western arts practices, her approach is characterized by her dedication to somatic intelligence of impulse & energy as the sources of all arts expression & human interaction, and to collaboration as the only sensible way to get along in life. See info on classes for professionals and community movers and Across Oceans Arts activities like The Choreographic Marathon here: [www.acrossoceans.org](http://www.acrossoceans.org)

Sunday, February 23, 2025

## ¡ARTE FLAMENCO! Tres Punales - Three Daggers.

A short dance piece that embraces the style of traditional Flamenco.

**Choreographer:** Elena la Comadre

**Music:** Miguel Poveda

**Dancers:** Andrea Reposo, Deborah Casado, Yurika Hinkle

Elena la Comadre is artistic director for ¡Arte Flamenco! Originally formed in to represent Spain during the CNE's 'Say Si to Spain'. From its conception in 1990, her goal was to present Flamenco dance keeping in the style of traditional Flamenco. In the late 90's, ¡Arte Flamenco! embraced the idea of Flamenco dance theatre – whereby means of the dance, cante, guitar, and poetry – a story was portrayed. Themes that were chosen were profound in nature rooted in human experience. Mid years of 2000 marked a transition for La Comadre where she placed more focus on the school. From 2008 to 2019 her school presented annual concerts with tremendous success. The Covid years of 2020 -22 marked yet another major transition for her. With school doors closing, this isolation period propelled her to go inward rediscovering herself as a now much older and more wounded dancer who strives to express her individuality through dance. And now post Covid years, ¡Arte Flamenco! is once again engaging in presenting traditional Flamenco dance. We graciously thank DW 2025 for giving us such opportunities.

## EMiMOTION Reflections of the Mind

*Reflections of the Mind* explores the contrast between our outward appearance and inner struggles. Through contrasting movement, the dancer reveals the masks we wear in public while internally battling emotions, fears, and complexities unseen by the world around us.

**Choreographer:** Emilio Colalillo

**Music:** 80 Doppel D

**Designers:** Emilio Colalillo

**Additional Creative Team:** Projections by Rodrigo Perez Polar and Emilio Colalillo

**Dancers/Performers:** in this remount: Chelly Li

EMiMOTION is a Toronto-based contemporary dance company that merges human and post-humanistic themes with technology and multimedia. Founded by Italian-Canadian choreographer Emilio Colalillo, the company pushes artistic boundaries, integrating expressive movement with digital projections, interactive media, and cutting-edge stage design. Drawing inspiration from Commedia dell'arte, EMiMOTION explores identity, transformation, and the masks we wear—both literal and metaphorical—blending classical influences with futuristic visions. With a name rooted in its core values—E for Emotion, M for Multimedia, and I for Identity—all in Motion—EMiMOTION creates visceral, immersive performances that challenge perceptions of humanity in the digital age. The company has toured internationally, presenting thought-provoking works that transcend



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cultural and technological divides. Through a fusion of contemporary dance, acrobatics, and interactive elements, EMIOTION continues to redefine the possibilities of performance, inviting audiences into a world where movement, technology, and identity collide in powerful, evocative storytelling.

## **Alan Faigal – Facilitator**

Alan Faigal is an educator and community animator who teaches for Ryerson University's Early Childhood Studies Program. Alan's dance training has been in Hip Hop and Urban based genres. He studies and performs Bollywood Dance under the direction of Lopa Sarkar of Divine Heritage Artistry. Pedagogy centers on family support and social justice. His mentorship of practicum students includes the cultivation of self and professional identity. Alan is also the National Youth Outreach Director for Culture Shock Canada, in that role he has designed and implemented community dance programs for ages 2.5 to 18 all across Southern Ontario. Alan has been a movement specialist in the fitness/wellness industry for over 17 years. As a canfitpro PRO trainer he trains and certifies group fitness instructors. He has recently become an ambassador for the Masala Bhangra Workout. Dance floors and academic lecture halls are avenues for his dynamic teaching methods.

## **Workshops**

### **Limón Technique and CCDT Repertoire with Steph Harkness/Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre**

Steph Harkness is a performer, teacher, choreographer, and rehearsal director from Mississauga. They trained, performed and rehearsal directed with Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre and graduated from Purchase College, SUNY in 2022. Steph performs with Rock Bottom Movement and has performed works by Colleen Snell, Eilish Shin-Culhane, and Rakeem Hardy. Steph teaches Limón Modern dance at CCDT and is a certified Conditioning with Imagery instructor. Steph's artistic practice explores the potential of dance as a means for cultivating cathartic experiences, fostering community, and promoting healing.

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. CCDT has introduced over 350,000 young people to dance through its Ontario Arts Access program. In recent years, CCDT celebrated the José Limón Dance Company's 70th anniversary, performing *The Winged* at the Joyce Theater as part of their International Dance Festival, helped to launch Harbourfront's inaugural Junior International Children's Festival and was featured in Canada's premiere international dance festival, Fall For Dance North.

CANADIAN CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE  
artistic director **DEBORAH LUNDMARK**

SUMMER INTENSIVE 2025  
JULY 7 - 25

# SUNDANCE

# AUDITIONS

FEB 23 | AGES 8-13

MAR 2 | AGES 14-19



ccdt

ROYAL  
ACADEMY  
OF DANCE

Sunday, February 23, 2025

## **Pow Wow Bootcamp with Classic Roots presented in partnership with The Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance**

Classic Roots is an Indigenous DJ, producer, performer, and dancer of Ojibwe/Blackfoot descent, from Long Lake 58 First Nation, born in Thunder Bay and based in Toronto. Known for his powerful fusion of electronic music with traditional Indigenous rhythms, he brings a fresh and vibrant energy to dance floors worldwide. His signature style blends house, techno, and Pow Wow influences, creating an immersive experience that bridges cultures. A passionate educator, Classic Roots empowers Indigenous youth through music workshops and Pow Wow Boot Camps, fostering cultural pride and artistic expression. His performances have graced international stages, including Future Forest, TIFF, and Trafalgar Square, earning him recognition as a trailblazer in the electronic music scene. With a deep commitment to honoring his roots while pushing sonic boundaries, Classic Roots continues to redefine the landscape of contemporary Indigenous music.

The Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance is a member-driven organization of professional Indigenous performing artists and arts organizations. IPAA serves as a collective voice for its members and for Indigenous performing arts in Canada. IPAA provides leadership, support, representation, advocacy, and practical assistance for the national development of Indigenous performing arts. [www.ipaa.ca](http://www.ipaa.ca)

## **METAPHORS with Lucy Rupert**

Blue Ceiling dance investigates the connections between art and science, ecosystem and individual, macrocosm and microcosm. We make works about the natural systems of our planet and the universe, collaborating with researchers and scientists in many fields in our quest to bring abstract concepts into human form. We work with intergenerational casts of performers from a range of backgrounds to create contemporary dance, where contemporary isn't a technique, but an approach that is expansive and interdisciplinary. Led by founder Lucy Rupert, Blue Ceiling dance is a metaphor for the blue sky of our minds: our unlimited imaginations. The company presents Lucy's choreography as well as co-creations and commissioned works from noted Canadian artists. The company also hosts METAPHORS classes -- exploratory movement for all interested in moving from professional dancers of all genres to performers, students and people who just love to move. In all situations, our work is rooted in the imagination and the possibilities for embodiment to help expand our humanity.

**Sunday, February 23, 2025**

## **Emod Vafa**

### **Sufi Whirling**

The Sufi whirling dance is a celestial prayer, a spinning journey toward the Divine. Each turn symbolizes the soul's ascent, shedding ego, merging with the cosmos. It mirrors planets orbiting the sun—a dance of surrender, unity, and eternal love

**Choreographer:** Emod Vafa

**Music:** Oruç Baba Zirk

Discover the profound world of the Sufi Whirling Dervish, a sacred ritual transcending the boundaries of mere dance. Nestled in the heart of Toronto, Ontario, our dedicated dervishes offer you an entrance into this ancient and spiritual practice. The Whirling Dervish experience is a spiritual voyage, a mesmerizing dance of turning that has been cherished for centuries by Sufi devotees. It serves as a conduit to connect with the divine, an expression of devotion and unity. At our center, we hold deep reverence for the sanctity of this practice and cultivate a nurturing environment where spirituality and the Sufi order are honored. Our seasoned practitioners will gently guide you on this transformative journey, aiding you in exploring the depths of your soul through the rhythmic dance of the heart. If you're on a quest to embark upon this sacred pilgrimage, our dervish community in Toronto, Ontario, stands ready to support your spiritual growth with utmost reverence and care. Sufi, Sama, Darvish.



## ABOUT DANCE ONTARIO

Founded in 1976 to support the advancement of the discipline, Dance Ontario is a dynamic cross-section of the dance sector with a membership that reflects this province's diversity through internationally renowned companies, emerging collectives, teachers, studios, choreographers, dancers, and production specialists. Key to the province's dance community, we are central to its communications, networking and capacity building. Dance Ontario continues to have a significant impact on the art form, the artists, their audiences and communities. Since 1992, Dance Ontario's DanceWeekend has showcased over 10,000 incredible artists working in over 30 dance forms. The Creative Partnerships Program has commissioned over 40 original works, supporting both emerging and established choreographers. Our vision is to develop a vibrant, diverse, inclusive and sustainable dance community reflecting all Ontarians. [www.danceontario.ca](http://www.danceontario.ca)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Samara Thompson, Chair  
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Emod Vafa

## FOR DANCEWEEKEND'25

Jennifer Wan, Production Manager/Stage Manager Saturday  
Megan Herman, Stage Manager Sunday  
Eric Parker, Logo Design

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City Dance Corps is Toronto's leading centre for dance and artistic movement, offering dance classes for both Adults and Youth. Newly located in Dovercourt village, City Dance Corps has been an industry leader in the Canadian dance scene since first opening our doors in 2002.

Dance Ontario members receive a discount on rentals on their 8 beautiful studios!

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS:



# Canada

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**BECOME A MEMBER.**

JOIN TODAY AT [DANCEONTARIO.CA](http://DANCEONTARIO.CA)



**DANCEONTARIO**