

# al dente

THE SCHOOL OF TORONTO DANCE THEATRE

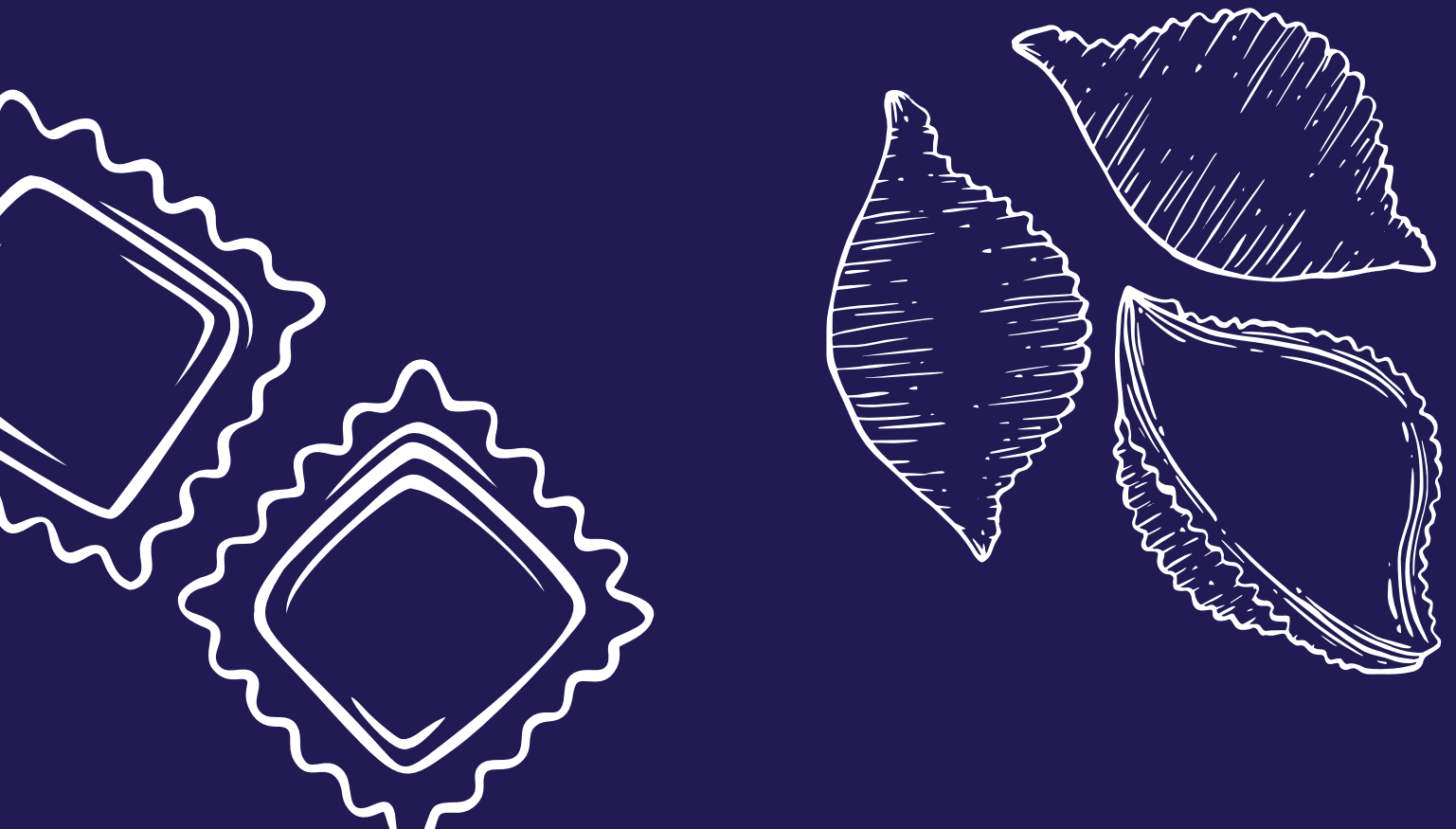
THE GRADUATING CLASS PRESENTS

*Choreographic  
Workshop  
2023*



# WELCOME

The Choreographic Workshop is a platform for students in their final year of study to further develop their artistic practices through the creation of original works. Students collaborate and embark on an enriching creative process, realizing their concepts for the stage. We thank you for joining us in celebrating the choreographic creations of these incredible emerging dance artists.



# al dente



## **ARTISTIC & PEDAGOGICAL DIRECTOR**

Sasha Ivanochko

### **CHOREOGRAPHERS**

Kt Ayer  
Peter Bannister  
Amelia Brown  
Rajvi Dedhia  
Abby Hanson  
Mai Luening  
Ellen Moore  
Ella Parsons  
Camryn Rieksts  
Maya Santos O'Keefe  
Isey Schaffer-Hooper

### **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Brandon Moe - Production Manager  
& Stage Manager  
Noah Feather - Lighting Designer  
Mai Luening - Asst. Stage Manager  
Jasper Jacobs - Technical Director  
Elizabeth Campbell - Technician  
Nathan Bruce - Technician  
Yasaman Nouri - Videographer

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL LAND**

The School of Toronto Dance Theatre would like to acknowledge the sacred land on which we operate, the site of human activity for over 15,000 years. This land is the traditional territory of many nations: the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land and to share our space with all peoples – those indigenous to Turtle Island and those from around the world.

# With arbitrary means

Maya Santos O'Keefe

in collaboration with the dancers

## DANCERS

Amelia Brown  
Rajvi Dedhia  
Micaela Janse Van Rensburg  
Ellen Moore

## MUSIC

Playlist of songs that may be used in the piece:  
<https://tinyurl.com/d8dy7p72>

## COSTUMES

Maya Santos O'Keefe

## COLLABORATORS

Mai Luening (Rehearsal Director)  
Peter Bannister (Sound Operator)

## ABOUT THE WORK

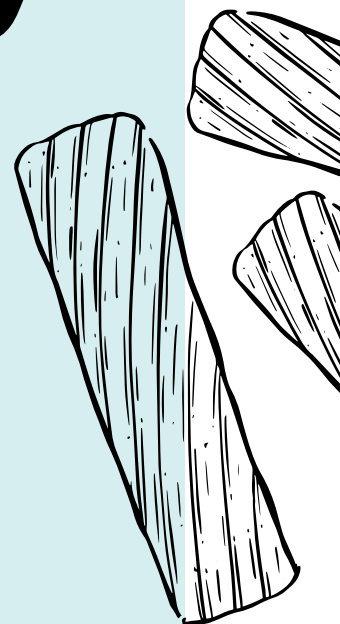
With arbitrary means  
For 4 players

Object: To perform a different piece each night

Equipment: one 12-sided dice, a sound system, a timer

On Your Turn: Roll the dice and perform the task that correlates with the number that was rolled

The game is over when the timer goes off.

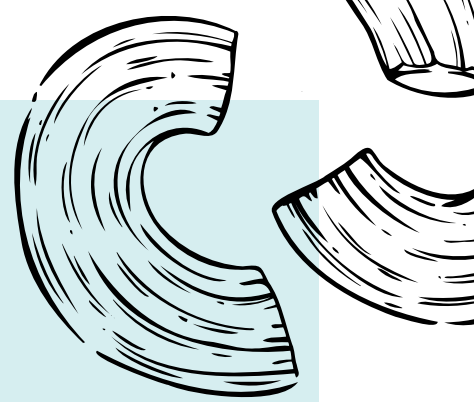


## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Maya Santos O'Keefe (she/her) grew up dancing competitively in Calgary, AB. She continued to dance throughout high school and fell in love with Contemporary dance at Central Memorial's PVA program. After graduation, she attended the University of Calgary working towards a BFA in Dance.

# theory of coloUrS

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Abby Hanson

## **DANCERS**

Kt Ayer  
Élodie Kyra Tan  
Camille Scully

## **MUSIC**

Theory of Colours  
by Dauwd  
Shimmy Shimmy Ya  
by El Michels Affair

## **COSTUMES**

Abby Hanson

## **ABOUT THE WORK**

*theory of coloUrS* explores the possibility of translating vibrant imaginary worlds to audiences through the use of gestures, gaze, and movement qualities. The dancers (who are each assigned their own colour) were asked to base improvised movement on words and feelings often associated with their colour. Throughout the work, they experiment with taking on the role of performer and observer.

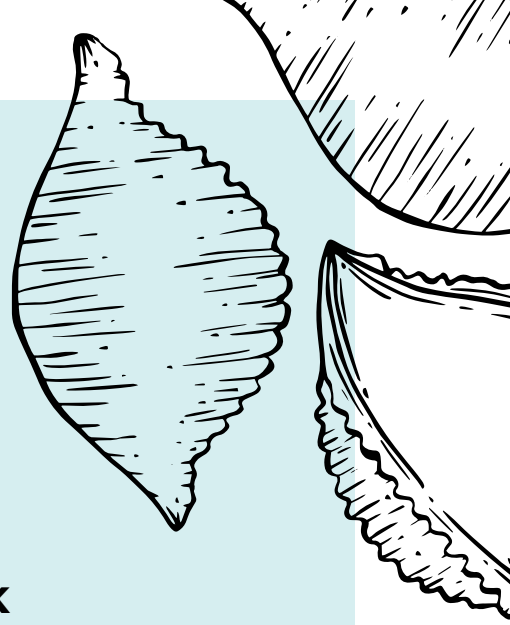
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## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Abby Hanson (she/they) is a dancer currently based in Toronto, originally from Edmonton. Over the past 10 years, she has trained, performed, and competed in multiple styles of dance such as Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Contemporary, Hip-Hop, and more. She has learnt from artists such as Joshua Beamish, Peggy Baker, Allen Kaeja, Belinda McGuire, David Norsworthy and many more.

# Lack There Of

Camryn Rieksts



## **DANCERS**

Emmett Bradshaw  
Mackenzie Richardson

## **MUSIC**

Deep Blue Sea Song  
by Flavian Berger

## **COSTUMES**

Camryn Rieksts

## **ABOUT THE WORK**

In my piece, I wanted to incorporate my own stylized movements that I've inhabited in my body. Working with my dancers, we created a vocabulary that would allow them to better interpret my practice. I utilized momentum in an attempt to create an effortless look for the viewers. I also experimented with internal rotation in the hips to find uncomfortable sensations for the dancers.

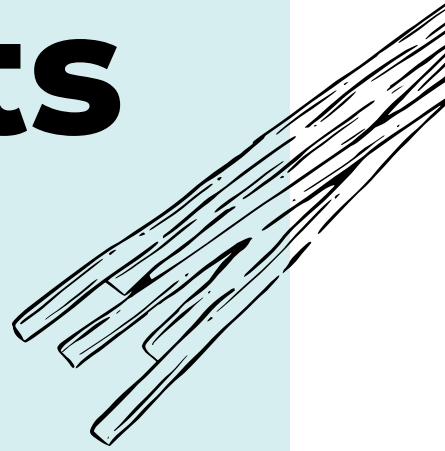
## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Camryn Rieksts (she/her) grew up dancing at Cobequid Dance Academy in Truro, Nova Scotia. She fell in love with Modern and Contemporary dance and decided to continue at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre. She has enjoyed exploring new ways of movement and working on creating a practice of her own throughout her education at the School.

# Vignettes and found objects

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Amelia Brown



## **DANCERS**

Minuet Charron  
Abby Hanson  
Isey Schaffer-Hooper  
Camille Scully

## **MUSIC**

Limerence  
by Yves Tumor

## **COSTUMES**

Amelia Brown,  
in collaboration with  
the dancers

## **ABOUT THE WORK**

This work was influenced by short essays on collection by Walter Benjamin and shadow boxes of found objects by Joseph Cornell. The items in Cornell's work being of no reasonable followable association to anyone except the artist.

I owe this piece to the dancers, who offered thoughtful writings of their own found objects, which were integral to the assembly of the piece.

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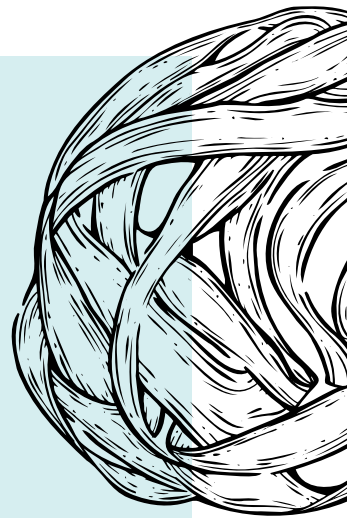
## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Amelia Brown (she/they) began dancing at The Pia Bouman School for Ballet and Creative Movement and attended Etobicoke School of the Arts where she majored in dance. Other than dance she currently enjoys trying on brief hobbies every two weeks. When she's not in school you can find Amelia at the bouldering gym.

# 52

# (navigation)

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Ellen Moore

## **DANCERS**

Amelia Brown  
Micaela Janse Van  
Rensburg

## **COSTUMES**

Ellen Moore

## **ABOUT THE WORK**

A study in movement, closeness, and task-based improvisation; dancers navigate several sets of tasks, both together and within their own bodies, similarly to how we may search for connection as we move through the structure of our own lives.

Special thanks to Amelia Brown and Micaela Janse Van Rensburg, without whom the work could not be shared, as well as Katie Adams-Gossage, Kt Ayer, and Ben King for their valued input.

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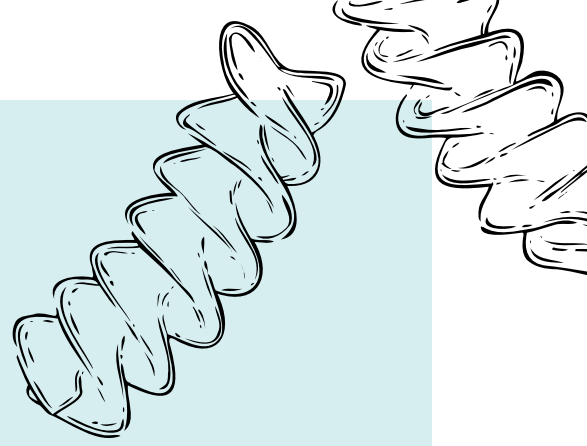
## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Originally from rural Nova Scotia, Ellen Moore (she/her) is an emerging dance artist, choreographer and soon to be graduate of the School of Toronto Dance Theatre. She moved to Ontario in 2016 to attend Quinte Ballet School of Canada's Professional Training Program, where she received the Jonathan and Dawn Mau Award of Encouragement.



# Fateless Vanity

Peter Bannister



## **DANCERS**

Kt Ayer  
Ella Parsons  
Camryn Rieksts  
Élodie Kyra Tan  
Minuet Charron  
Maya Santos O'Keefe

## **ABOUT THE WORK**

Where are you?

## **MUSIC**

Siren Interlude by Arca  
Mutant by Arca

## **COSTUMES**

Peter Bannister

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Peter Bannister (he/him) is a Toronto based contemporary dance artist in his final year at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre. Before coming to the School, he trained at Rosedale Heights School of the Arts. He is excited to see where his future in dance takes him.

# you don't know these people

Mai Luening



## **DANCERS**

Emmett Bradshaw  
Camille Scully  
Amelia Brown  
Maya Santos O'Keefe  
Kai Fitzpatrick  
Isey Schaffer-Hooper  
Harper Drzymala-  
Bokitch  
Emma Gaskin

## **MUSIC**

Shoulderbaldes  
by Gilla Band

## **COSTUMES**

Mai Luening

## **ABOUT THE WORK**

Sonder.

Reflecting the sudden realization that every single human around you is their own person, leading lives just as complex and profound as your own. Instead of closing ourselves off and staying in our self-involved shell, opening our souls to the overload of emotional discord that will boil us down into the recognition of similarity in the face of trepidation.

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Mai Luening (he/she/they) is an aspiring artist from Waterloo, Ontario. They have performed works by Amanda Acorn, Kate Alton, Tia Kushniruk, Pulga Muchochoma and Darryl Tracy. Luening is invested in exploring their choreographic practice and feels most liberated when projecting their visions of movement onto other bodies, which is something they are continuing to work on as they research the potential of branching out into their own technique.

# the act of performance



Ella Parsons

## **DANCERS**

Camryn Rieksts  
Abby Hanson

## **MUSIC**

After Hours (Mono  
Single) by The Velvet  
Underground

March 4 1831 by  
Balmorhea

## **COSTUMES**

Ella Parsons

## **ABOUT THE WORK**

This work is a collection of moments that aim to show two sides of how we experience dance as viewers and performers. With intertwining audio of The Velvet Underground and silence, we see moments of levity and connection contrasted with those filled with control and isolation.

This asks the question, who is the audience if the dancers are watching us?

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Ella Parsons (she/her) is a dance artist from New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. She began her dance training at a young age focused mainly in Ballet, but has found a passion for Contemporary and Modern movement practices. Parsons has grown immensely over her time at the School and has thoroughly enjoyed creating her current piece for the Choreographic Workshop.

# Felt



Isey Schaffer-Hooper

## **DANCERS**

Peter Bannister  
Maya Santos O'Keefe

## **MUSIC**

Merge  
by Steve Roach

## **COSTUMES**

Isey Schaffer-Hooper  
Gwen Renzetti

## **ABOUT THE WORK**

*Felt* is a playful study of the movement quality, personal character, and anatomy of Gibbon Apes, and the translation of these qualities onto human bodies.

Through elongated felt sleeves and varying degrees of structured improvisation, the dancers are tasked with interacting with the space and each other as Gibbons.

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Isey Schaffer-Hooper (she/they/he) is a dance artist from Toronto. They studied Anthropology at Concordia University, and returned to Toronto to attend The School of Toronto Dance Theatre. Their interest in the adaptability and anatomical nuances of the human body has greatly affected their approach to their education and creative practices.

# within sensation



Kt Ayer

## **DANCERS**

Micaela Janse Van  
Rensburg

## **MUSIC**

Piece of Future  
by Gesaffelstein

## **COSTUMES**

Kt Ayer

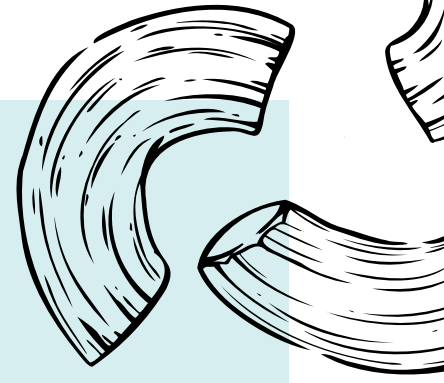
## **ABOUT THE WORK**

*within sensation* explores held tension in the body, how it accumulates throughout life, and how to cope with it. The work zeros in on these ideas within one body while questioning on an individual level; what do we do when these sensations arise? It seeks to bring the audience with the performer as they navigate their own experience, leaving you asking yourself; what am I holding on to?

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Kt Ayer (they/them) is an emerging dance artist, teacher and choreographer originally from Fredericton, New Brunswick and currently based in Toronto. They started dancing competitively at the age of 11, training in Contemporary, Tap, Ballet, Jazz, Street Style and Acro.

# Intertwined Roots



Rajvi Dedhia

## **DANCERS**

Kt Ayer  
Emmett Bradshaw  
Abby Hanson  
Ellen Moore  
Élodie Kyra Tan

## **MUSIC**

Nagada Sang Dhol  
by The Ayoub Sisters

## **COSTUMES**

Rajvi Dedhia,  
in collaboration with  
the dancers

## **ABOUT THE WORK**

*Intertwined Roots* is an attempt to find a relationship between Western Contemporary and an Indian folk dance called Garba. It is an individual and a collective experience where the dancers perform and travel in a circle. The performance aims at sharing a sense of joy and celebration.

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Rajvi Dedhia (she/her) is a dancer from India who has trained in various dance styles, including Ballet, Contemporary and Hip-Hop. She moved to Toronto for further studies and has worked with leading Canadian choreographers. She aims to establish herself as an artist, choreographer, and teacher.

## GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SUPPORT

Funded by the  
Government  
of Canada

Financé par le  
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du Canada

Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
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## SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARY PROGRAM

Alex Muto  
Arts Access Fund  
BLG Foundation  
Kathryn Ash Scholarship Fund

Leslie Wood  
Lindy Green Family Foundation  
The Turk Family

## WINCHESTER PRIZE

Lindy Green & Sam Chaiton  
SummerWorks Performance Festival

## FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

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*Blakes*



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Jae Yang  
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And to all family and friends who  
have contributed to the Students  
Funds.

**CHAMPION – \$5000 +**

Steve Cooney & Jason  
Klugmana Steven Del Degan  
Lindy Green & Sam Chaiton  
Bulmash-Siegel Foundation  
Peter & Lois Turk

**BENEFACTOR – \$1000 +**

Brad Fitzpatrick  
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Jae Yang

TRIBUTE GIFTS

In memory of Kathryn Ash  
In memory of Trish Beatty  
In memory of Hal  
In honour of Robert Elgie  
In honour of Patricia Fraser  
In honour of Gavin MacLean  
In honour of Darryl Tracy  
In honour of Leslie Wood

\* Monthly donors  
Donations listed as of Nov 30, 2022

**WINCHESTER STREET THEATRE REVITALIZATION**

The School of Toronto Dance Theatre and Toronto Dance Theatre would like to thank the following funders who have contributed to the capital improvements being made to our home at 80 Winchester Street: The Ontario Trillium Foundation (an agency of the Government of Ontario, City of Toronto: Heritage Grant Program, and Government of Canada.

For more information about these capital improvements, please contact: [facilities@tdt.org](mailto:facilities@tdt.org)



# BECOME A DONOR

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At The School of Toronto Dance Theatre, we train creative people to perform, choreograph, teach, and to assume leadership roles that will change the face of contemporary dance in Canada and around the world. Your donation goes directly toward our exceptional training program and our provision of meaningful student bursaries and scholarships.

**PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TODAY:**

<https://schooloftdt.org/donate/>

# STUDENT FUND

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Fundraiser by the Graduating Class of 2023

The School of Toronto Dance Theatre has been our second home for the past 3 years. During our time at the School, we have learned, danced, performed, and most importantly grown as people and artists in many ways and as a group. Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we began our education entirely online and completed our entire first year via zoom.

Now, in our third and final year, we are once again getting to fully experience dance in all the ways that made us fall in love with it. We have started fundraising in hopes of taking an educational trip to Montreal, where we will have the chance to dance with our peers at École de Danse Contemporaine de Montréal, and create meaningful new connections.

**MAKE A DONATION TODAY:**

<https://tinyurl.com/yemwe3ne>

# CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## LEADERSHIP

**Sasha Ivanochko**  
Artistic &  
Pedagogical Director

**Michelle Yeung**  
Managing Director

## ARTISTIC STAFF

**George Stamos**  
Artistic &  
Pedagogical Associate

**Danielle Baskerville**  
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**Pamela Wong Shoebottom**  
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**Brandon Moe**  
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**Bethany Lifeso**  
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**Chloe Bernabei**  
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# PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

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Valerie Calam	Allen Kaeja	Michelle Silagy
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Kymberley Feltham	Bonnie Kim	George Stamos
Mateo Galindo Torres	Adam Lazarus	Pamela Wong Shoebottom
Susanna Hood	Robert McCollum	
Christopher House	Jeff Morris	

## CHOREOGRAPHERS 2022-2023

Amanda Acorn	Benjamin Kamino	David Norsworthy
Mohammadreza Akrami	Ryan Lee	Tilman O'Donnell
Peggy Baker	Sharon Moore	Sashar Zarif
Marie France Forcier		

## ACCOMPANISTS 2022-2023

Tita Evidente	Michael Menegon	Jay Sussman
Larry Graves	Jake Oelrichs	Stich Wynston

## ADULT RECREATIONAL CLASSES

Megan Nadain

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# Study with us

[schooloftdt.org](https://schooloftdt.org)

**2023-2024**

The School of Toronto Dance Theatre's full-time Professional Training Program offers specialized education in current streams of Contemporary dance. Our three year program offers a holistic, intensive curriculum with practical studio and performance experience, and creative and theoretical development, supporting individual student's paths toward vital careers in dance.

Our students graduate from the Professional Training Program having become dance artists who positively contribute to the depth and evolution of the field of Contemporary dance as performers, choreographers, directors, teachers, and more.

The School of Toronto Dance Theatre is a Private Career College where students earn an Advanced Diploma and have the opportunity to complete a BFA Dance Degree through our affiliation with York University.

## Summer Intensive

**July 3-21**

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

Our Pre-Professional and Professional Summer Intensive programs provide aspiring dance artists with Contemporary dance skills and networking opportunities.

Participants will engage in full days of dance in Ballet, Contemporary, Improvisation, creation process and repertoire. Join us to explore physicality, creativity and new perspectives on Contemporary dance practices with our extraordinary national and international summer faculty.

