

CAN ASIAN DANCE 25!

PROGRAM A

Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022

PROGRAM B

Wednesday, March 30th, 2022

PROGRAM C

Wednesday, April 6th, 2022





ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Denise Fujiwara

GENERAL MANAGER

Ariana Shaw

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Jasmine Au

VIDEO EDITOR

Phoebe Sequino

LIVESTREAM TECHNICIAN

Gil Ruston

BOOKKEEPER

Karen Bennedsen

NEW MOVES SELECTION COMMITTEE

Sze-Yang Ade-Lam, Denise Fujiwara, Queenie Seguban

ALUMNI SELECTION COMMITTEE

Denise Fujiwara, Neena Jayarajan, Phil Kim, Natalie Tin Yin Gan

PROGRAM INTROS FILM + EDITING

Phil Kim, Films by Fenton, Phoebe Sequino

POST-SHOW TALK MODERATORS

Natalie Tin Yin Gan, Kunji Ikeda, Michael Caldwell

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Coman Poon (President), David Norsworthy, Brandy Leary

CanAsian Dance is based in Tkaronto, colonially known as Toronto, which is the Mohawk name for *the place in the water where the trees are standing*. We respectfully acknowledge, that the land we live and dance on, is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.



PROGRAM A

Vasantham
aWakening
moth
I AM HERE

PROGRAM B

Shù (Tree)
Self-Portraits with Amrita
Wabi-Sabi
Bahala Na

PROGRAM C

Answer
Elemental
A Freckle
Spells for Chinatown
Noppera-Bō

ABOUT

CanAsian Dance Festival 25!

2022 is CanAsian Dance's 25th Anniversary!

We're celebrating with a virtual multi-week festival featuring 3 diverse programs.

Presenting world premieres by commissioned choreographers from our New Moves: Short Digital Dance Works program, and recent digital dance works from our past talented Alumni - artists from our previous 25 years.

ABOUT

New Moves - Short Digital Dance Works Program

CanAsian Dance is proud to present the three talented, emerging choreographers that have received commissions in our New Moves - Short Digital Dance Works program.

They are:

Ashvini Sundaram (Vancouver/Toronto) working with Dramaturg Karen Kaeja

Mary-Lee Brunet (Montreal) working with Dramaturg Handy Yacinthe

Ian Simon (Toronto) working with Dramaturg Nina Lee Aquino

The New Moves program is made possible with the generous support of TD Bank Group.

CAN
ASIAN
DANCE

NEW MOVES:
SHORT DIGITAL DANCE WORKS

CANASIANDANCE.COM

SUPPORTED BY

TD

PHOTO OF IAN SIMON BY IAN SIMON,
PHOTO OF MARY-LEE BRUNET BY JASON FRIAS,
PHOTO OF ASHVINI SUNDARAM BY ALISON WANDZUBA

Answer

New Moves - Short Digital Dance Works Commission

Director, Choreographer	Mary-Lee Brunet
Director of Photography [Videographer & Editor]	Do Phan Hoi
Dancer, Co-Choreographer	Romy Denoncourt
Dancer, Co-Choreographer	Meihan Carrier-Brisson
Dramaturg	Handy 'HYA' Yacinthe
Musical Composer & Musical Editor	Eric Adrianarivony
Set Assistants	Emile Benazera Etienne Leonard Benoit
Artistic Consultants	Sarah Steben Ford MckEown Larose Ricky Saint-Jusna

I would like to thank dearly:

Sarah Steben & Giulia Tripoli for letting us rehearse in the wonderful and safe space that is the Workroom 5584. **Bao Nguyen and his family** for lending us their beautiful home for the interior shoot. **Caroline Dusseault** for the amazing Espace Dusso location. **Ap Nguyen, Christbob Phu and Ervin Andaya** for the help in the early stages of this project. **Alexandra 'Spicey' Landé** for her enthusiasm towards this project and taking the time to guide me towards the right people. **Emile & Etienne** for their constant help and support in everything I always do. **Sarah, Ford & Ricky** for their time & expertise, their help on this project and constant faith in me. **Handy** for all of the conversations, the guidance and the many questions. Working with you has been so easy and enriching, thank you for blessing us with your presence. **Meihan & Romy** for diving into this with no questions asked, for keeping me grounded, for letting themselves be vulnerable to share this experience & a part of them in this. I love you so much and will always be grateful for your trust. **Hoi** for hoping onto this project as soon as we first talked about it and to have masterfully brought to life everything I had in mind. I appreciate your dedication, your trust and your support always. **Ariana, Denise & the CanAsian board** for giving me this wonderful opportunity and trusting me & my vision.

Answer is my first choreographic and visual dance piece. Treated as a collaborative work with all the artists involved, it's a small introspection into three young women, including me, living the experience of being interracial asian adoptees in our everyday lives. We want to open the door on this subject, which is almost untouched. We have started questioning and researching our selves, our identities & emotions we can't explain. To the answers we know, to those that remain unclear and to the answers we will never find.

Hello ! I'm **MARY-LEE BRUNET**, I am 23 years-old and I come from Montreal, Canada. I have been dancing for almost 8 years now and I study hip-hop and popping dance styles. I have done stage competitions, a television competition, numerous freelance and corporate dance contracts as well as some battles, here in the city. Dance has also made me travel to Toronto, Vancouver, Quebec City and Los Angeles. I have mostly worked with Sarah Steben, Ricky St-Jusna and many others. I have also worked with La Résistance, le Quartier des Spectacles of Montreal, Gala Artis, Gala ComediHa, RBC, Air Transat and many others. I consider myself more of a freestyle dancer, but really I enjoy all that is dance and beyond the movement. To me, it's imperative to understand, study and stay curious about what you do, in this case dance, with passion. I am always looking for opportunities to push myself and my creative and professional development as a dancer but also as a human.

HANDY "HYA" YACINTHE is an artist that is strongly positioned in the Canadian and international street dance circuit. A creator, innovator and experimenter in his own right, but above all he is a multidisciplinary artist that explores in multiple creative realms. An experimenter for 25 years, his career has spanned from creations, stage work, as a choreographer, with productions, short films, music production, curation, pedagogy, mentoring, music production, cyphers, battles, and the entertainment business. Founder of the innovative and acclaimed international street dance festival Jack of All Trades; JOAT has been held in Singapore, Taiwan, India, Vancouver, Los Angeles, the United Kingdom and Japan



Elemental

Choreographer and Performer	Nova Bhattacharya
Sound Design	Ed Hanley
Lighting Design	Simon Rossiter
Additional Sound Credits	Ed Hanley (Tabla, Loops) Justin Gray (Bass Ween, Electric Guitar)
Mixed and Mastered By	Justin Gray
Produced By	Ed Hanley

Livestream Production Crew:

Director	Barbara Willis Sweete
Executive Producer	Laurence Lemieux
Director of Photography	Milan Podsedly
Camera Operators	Milan Podsedly Don Spence
Steadicam Operator	Dan Mackenzie
Switcher	Jordan Calcafuoco
Camera Assistant	Alex Bros
Livestream Producer	Paul-John Elisha
Digital Imaging Technician	Jordan Calcafuoco
Sound Designer	John Gzowski
Lighting Director	Simon Rossiter
Stage Manager	Marianna Rosato
Technical Director	Andrew McCormack
Script Assistant	Juliette Coleman

Original Livestream Performance on March 26, 2021 at Citadel Live!

Produced by
Citadel + Compagnie

In collaboration with
Nova Dance and Harbourfront Centre

Toronto Arts Council / Funded by the City of Toronto

Ontario Arts Council / Conseil Des Arts De L'Ontario an Ontario government agency/un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Canada Council for the Arts/Conseil des arts du Canada

Funded by the Government of Canada/Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

Presented as a livestream in 2021, Elemental is a documentary film of an evolution of performance practice during a pandemic. Using the most basic and primary elements of my technical training and creative influences, it celebrates the transformative power of dance through an offering of movement and emotion. It is an invocation of the imagination and a ritual for a liminal moment.

NOVA BHATTACHARYA is an award-winning dancer, choreographer and cultural leader based in Tkaronto on Turtle Island. Crafting vivid images that invite the viewer on a journey of heart and mind, integrating improvised movement and gesture, she invents a language that needs no translation. She dances solos that are intimate and intense, and she creates mesmerizing ensemble works with dancers trained in a diversity of techniques. Her inspiration is drawn from a myriad of sources including - Bharatnatyam, Butoh, folk dances, her Bengali culture and love for Rock'n'Roll. She is the Founding Artistic Director of Nova Dance, established in 2008.



A Freckle

Choreography, Cinematography,
Text, Voice-Over, Performance

Richard Lee

Performance

Miranda Allen

Camera Operation, Green Screen Effects

Carisa Hendrix

Filmed in November 2020 in Amiskwâciswaskahikan.

Originally commissioned by Springboard Performance for "Making Love with The Land Performance" online programme, December 2020. Inspired by author Joshua Whitehead's "On Bodies of Writing", an excerpt from his work Making Love with the Land.

Rooted in gesture-based choreography and the fussiness of a body that can never feel neutral, "A Freckle" is a questioning of phenomena I once unconsciously thought of as universal, much of which turned out to be—surprise surprise—just white people stuff... But also Singaporean people stuff.

Richard Lee is a choreographer, performer, and educator working in contemporary dance and theatre. Frequent collaborators include Cloudsway Dance Theatre, Mile Zero Dance, Good Women Dance Collective, and Amber Borotsik. Recent dance-based works include All These Impending Present Moments for New Dance Horizons Secret Garden Series, Running Live for the Found Festival, and Side Shave for the National Arts Centre's Transformations Project. Born, raised, and based out of Amiskwaciswaskahikan, in September 2021 Richard relocated to the United Kingdom to pursue an M.F.A. in Movement Direction and Teaching at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.



Spells for Chinatown

Concept & Direction	Ziyian Kwan
Videographer & Editor	Joseph Hirabayashi
Composer	Joseph Hirabayashi
Performance & Collaboration	Justin Calvadores Shion Skye Carter Marisa Gold Ziyian Kwan Sarah Wong
Co-Producers	Dumb Instrument Dance Barking Sphinx Performance Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden

Spells for Chinatown was created in May 2021 as a digital celebration of Asian Heritage Month. Produced by Dumb Instrument Dance, the video is an invocation for healing that marks the one year anniversary of dance artist Ziyian Kwan's 2020 dance protest against Asian hate crimes, a peaceful action that took place at Vancouver's Chinese Cultural Centre and that garnered the nation's attention. A year later, Ziyian instigated a series of live performances at Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden, which has since become an annual event. Ziyian created this companion video that juxtaposes scenes from the Garden's inner city oasis with vignettes captured on the streets of Vancouver's historic Chinatown. The video is conceived, conjured and directed by Ziyian Kwan in collaboration with composer, editor and videographer Joseph Hirabayashi. The video features performances by collaborating dance artists Justin Calvadores, Shion Skye Carter, Marisa Gold, Ziyian Kwan and Sarah Wong.



ZIYIAN KWAN has worked as a dance artist on the unceded ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, since 1988. As an interprète, she has performed close to 100 original creations by an eclectic range of choreographers on international stages. As Artistic Director of Dumb Instrument Dance, Ziyian's work abstract lived experience to form collages of imagery, movement and language. Throughout her work, Ziyian aspires to artfully challenge the status quo and to conjure reciprocity through creative exchange. Ziyian's artistry is inspired by collaboration with luminaries in the fields of dance, music, film, theatre, literature and visual art.

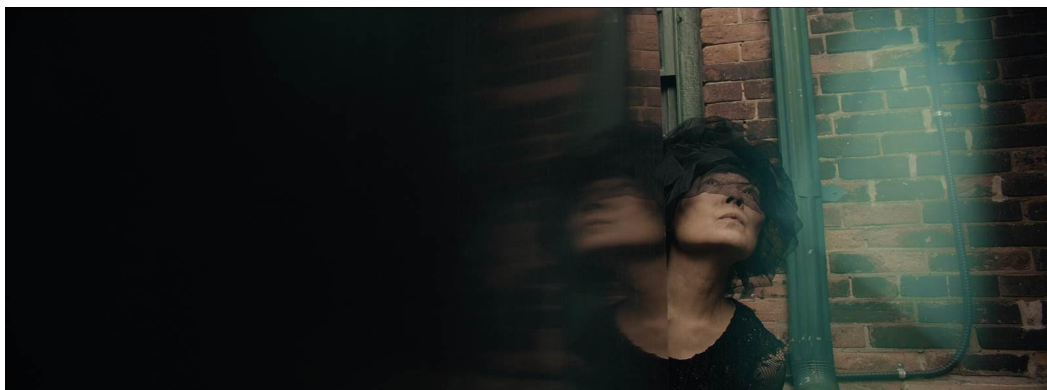
Noppera-bō

Choreographer and Performer	Denise Fujiwara
Director	William Yong
Director of Photography and Editor	William Yong
Composer	Michael FK
Writers	Denise Fujiwara Stephen Trigg William Yong
Production Assistants	James Kendal Jen Hum
Costume Designer	Denise Fujiwara William Yong
Spoke Dress Designer and Maker	Jennifer Dallas
Film Production	W Zento Production

Commissioned by Older & Reckless, it won a One-Reeler Short Film Competition 2020 Award of Excellence in Los Angeles in 2021.

This short film arose out of contemplations on the entwining issues of masks and anonymity. In ancient Japanese lore, *Noppera-bo* is a faceless ghost, a fantastical creature that sows fear. *Noppera-bo* seems to have re-emerged in the midst of this global pandemic, where masks and face coverings, whether worn for health or cultural reasons, have become political, where anonymity protects faceless people who spread disinformation and hate through institutions and cyberspace, and fear and distrust are triggered by an unseen virus that can be carried by people who do not know they are contagious.

DENISE FUJIWARA was a co-founder of CanAsian Dance. She is grateful to have experienced 25 wonderful years of growth and evolution with the organization. This is one of her final events as Artistic Director as she steps down in June. Fujiwara also choreographs and performs in her own right. EUNOIA, her multimedia adaptation of Christian Bök's award winning book premiered at Harbourfront Centre's World Stage, received three Dora nominations, was one of NOW's Top 5 Dance Shows of 2014, and tours nationally. In 2015 she was a soloist in Luminato Festival's extravaganza, *Apocalypse*, directed by Lemi Ponifasio. Solos created for her by Japanese butoh masters, Natsu Nakajima and Yukio Waguri toured to four continents, and she is a recipient of the Toronto Arts Foundation's Muriel Sherrin Award recognizing her international achievements in dance. She teaches Butoh, performance and improvisation in Toronto and abroad.



Diamond Sponsor

The New Moves - Short Digital Dance Works Program was made possible with the generous support of TD Bank Group



CanAsian Dance
is grateful to the following funding
partners for their ongoing support.

