

Keynote Address - Carve Your Own Path : Aria Evans



Aria Evans is a Toronto-based interdisciplinary artist working in film, dance creation and performance. She draws on her experiences as a woman of mixed race (Mi'kmaq/Black/settler heritage) as well as her BFA (2012) to capture meaningful social and cultural themes through her interactive art. Aria is artistic director of the Go To Company and co-artistic director of hub14, co-founder of The Research Exchange. Aria has presented her own choreographic work with Ontario Culture Days, SummerWorks, the Toronto Fringe, Nightwood Theatre, the University of Toronto, FRESH BLOOD, the Gardiner Museum, Harbourfront Centre's Next Step Series, and Dance Ontario, Long Winter and many more.

Her works have been presented in both North America and Europe. She has toured with company Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, created work commissioned by the Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance, performed for the Indspire awards, participated and performed in works with Michael Greyeyes, Penny Chouchie, Julia Sasso, Peggy Baker, The Banff Centre, A Tribe Called Red, Susan Lee, Constance Cooke and Expect Theatre, to name a few. Independently, through film, she has collaborated with many of Toronto's leading dance artists and organizations.

Panel: Finding your Feet - Landing the Work that Builds the Career



Hollywood Jade has worked in the industry for over ten years. He began his journey as a dancer supporting many artists on stage and screen including Nelly Furtado, Divine Brown, Rihanna, Canadian Idol finalist Gary Beals and Danity Kane. Hollywood Jade has also been a featured dancer in several movies including Save The Last Dance 2, Camp Rock 2, Make Your Move and the smash hit blockbuster Hairspray. Hollywood Jade's ability to excel as a dancer on these projects combined with his natural leadership skills opened up opportunities for him to start choreographing and assisting other choreographers including Jamal Sims, Luther Brown and Eboni Nichols. As a choreographer, Hollywood Jade founded his own performance company "Hollywood Jade Presents". This performance company has orchestrated several sold out "Urbanesque" shows which fuse the classic style of Burlesque with modern and contemporary music and movement.



Supriya Nayak is an Odissi dancer from New Delhi, based in Toronto, who uses the rich vocabulary of Indian classical dance to present work in traditional and non-traditional spaces in solo and collaborative works. She has performed internationally in South Africa, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, China and the USA. Based in Canada since 2015, Supriya has danced for Anandam Dancetheatre, the Toronto Dance Community Love-In and Sampradaya Dance Creations. In 2017, she received the Toronto Arts Council's 'Newcomer and Refugee Artist Mentorship Grant', Toronto Arts Foundation and RBC's 'Arts Access Grant', and residencies from Hub14 and Arzoo Dancetheatre. She brings to her work an understanding developed through years of practice and research into the movement, historical evolution and artistic influences in Odissi, as well as a study of somatic practices.



Born and raised in Colombia, **Mateo Galindo Torres** is a dance artist, with side projects in film, photography, and music editing. As an independent artist, Torres has performed professionally in Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Germany, Mexico, and Panama. Torres is one of the artistic directors and a founding member of Form Contemporary Dance Theatre. With Form, Torres has choreographed and presented multiple pieces in different Canadian cities. Torres' work is often politically charged, inspired by social subject matters, and fuses his eclectic movement background.

Finding your Feet, continued...



(MODERATOR) **Brandy Leary** creates contemporary performances through the body with an artistic practice informed by dance, martial arts, ritual, circus, and theatre. Her works have been produced and performed in Canada, Europe, India, the Arctic, South Africa and the USA in theatres, urban environments, festivals, museums, art galleries and isolated landscapes. She is active in the community as a performer, choreographer, collaborator, curator and Artistic Director of Anandam Dancetheatre. The work she develops holds considerations about the transmission of embodied knowledge; of performance architectures, cultural viewpoints, and customs of audience/performer relationships. She has lived between Canada and India for the past 18 years; training, collaborating and creating (both explicitly and implicitly) in the traditional Indian performing languages of Seraikella and Mayurbhanj Chhau (dance), Kalaripayattu (martial art) and Rope Mallakhamb (aerial rope). In Canada she works with western approaches to aerial rope, post contemporary dance/circus practices and embodied improvisation to create performances. www.anandam.ca

Panel: Studios, Schools, and Centres: Exploring Avenues for Dance Teaching and Pedagogy



Born and trained in Cuba, first with Classical Ballet and subsequently Modern at La ENA, Havana, **Arsenio Andrade** gained professional credentials in Modern Dance Performance and Teaching. He joined Compania Danza Teatro del Caribe as Principal Dancer and Tutor, directed by Cuban cultural icon, Eduardo Rivero Walker, and then the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica. He has toured extensively internationally and worked with various companies and organizations, including CARIFESTA Suriname 2013 as creative consultant/choreographer. Moving to Toronto in 2010, Arsenio teaches Cuban Modern Contemporary and traditional dance forms on the faculty at Ryerson University's degree Dance Program, as well with other companies and schools in Toronto.



Neena Jayarajan is a Bharatanatyam dancer who has trained under the tutelage of Guru Dr. Menaka Thakkar for over 28 years. She has been assistant teacher at Nrtyakala for over 15 years, and has served as both the Assistant Artistic Director (AAD), lead dancer and rehearsal director of the Menaka Thakkar Dance Company (MTDC). Through MTDC Neena studied under renowned teachers in various dance styles including Padma Bushan Kalanidhi Narayan in Abhinaya, CV Chandrashekar in Bharatanatyam and Sujatha Mohaptra in Odissi. She has toured with MTDC's Odissi production Gita Govinda across North America & India and was presented as an Odissi Soloist in India. She has also worked with various accomplished dancers including William Lau, Danny Grossman, Patrick Parson & Bengt Jorgen. In addition, taken intensives in other art forms including Kalaripayattu, Ballet, Modern dance and Butoh. Neena is a 2016 recipient of the Chalmers Arts Fellowship Grant.



Ashleigh Powell is a Toronto-based teacher and choreographer and manager of the Sharing Dance Program at Canada's National Ballet School. Through NBS' Teacher Training Program she obtained teaching qualifications with the Cecchetti Society, Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing and the Royal Academy of Dance. Ashleigh is recipient of the Carole Chadwick Award and the Betty Oliphant Award for teaching and holds an Honours Degree in History from the University of Toronto. Selected choreographic projects include: Storefront Theatre (Chasse-Galerie, Edmond, Shrew) Theatre Brouhaha (Skriker) Hart House Theatre (Hamlet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Equus, The Great American Trailer Park Musical), Next Stage Festival (Fairy Tale Ending)



Jamee Valin is a dance artist, choreographer, educator, and producer. She attended York University and George Brown College and later mentored with Dreamwalker Dance, Across Oceans, The Chimera Project, Project CPR, MascallDance, PuSh, National Artist Program and the Cultch. She has performed or choreographed for: Toronto Fringe, Dance: Made in Canada, Your Dance Fest, New Blue, Dusk Dances, ROMP!, 12 Minutes Max, BC BUDS, Fresh Blood, Series 8:08, and Vines Art Festival. Company credits include: Jay9 Dance Projects, Sweett Moves, The Lovers Cabaret and Give Me Brilliance. Jamee has completed residencies with Dancemakers Centre for Creation and Lauren Runions. She loves her pets and is extremely passionate about education.



(*MODERATOR*) Artistic Director of KasheDance and Program Manager at Cultural Pluralism in the Arts Movement Ontario (CPAMO), **Kevin Ormsby** has many interests in the creative practice and Arts administration, the OAC 2017 Chalmers Fellowship and KM Hunter Dance Award Nominee, Kevin has honed his passion for dance, advocacy, writing and education while performing in Canada, the Caribbean and the United States. The TAC Cultural Leaders Lab Fellow (2015) and Canada Council's Victor Martyn Lynch – Staunton Award (2014) recipient, is also an adjunct artist at Dance Exchange (Washington D.C), danced with Garth Fagan Dance (NY), and performed works by Gerry Trentham, Lemi Ponifasio, Marie Josee Chartier, Allison Cummings, Ron K Brown, Patrick Parson, Milton Myers, Menaka Thakkur, Mark Morris and Bill T. Jones. He is a Board Member at Prologue to the Performing Arts, Nia Centre for the Arts and Canadian Dance Assembly.

Panel: Producing Your Own Artistic Work (or How to Balance Many Hats)



Melissa Hart is a vibrant, established performing artist from Toronto, with a BFA Degree in Dance from York University. Melissa has co-founded contemporary dance company SaMel Tanz with Samantha Schleese. They most recently produced, choreographed and performed in shows for 2017 Toronto Fringe Festival and 2018 Next Stage Festival with That "F" Word rated NNNN from NOW Magazine and 3 out 4 stars from the Globe and Mail. Melissa is also a member of all female Hip Hop Dance Crew DEUCEnDIP, (credits: WE DAY, Canada's Walk of Fame, World Pride) and a proud arts educator and mentor for non-profit arts organization Unity Charity.



Emily Law is a contemporary dancer, street dancer, and choreographer. She graduated from The School of Toronto Dance Theatre and The Etobicoke School of the Arts. She has trained and competed in house dancing and waacking. Emily is a founding member of Mix Mix Dance Collective, the Toronto house dance crew Warehouse Jacks and Parks N' Wreck. Emily has had the pleasure of working with companies and artists such as: Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, The Dietrich Group, The Chimera Project and Alias Dance Project. Her choreographic work has been showcased on companies and in festivals such as: Toronto Dance Theatre, The Next Stage Theatre Festival, Toronto Fringe Festival, CanAsian Dance Festival, The Reel Asian Film Festival, Guelph Dance & Fall For Dance North. She has been nominated for two Dora Mavor Moore awards, a Gemini, & the 2017 Premier's award. Also, she recently represented Canada in the hip hop category at Jeux de la Francophonie with Mix Mix Dance Collective in Abidjan.



Anjelica Scannura is a highly accomplished dancer, choreographer, adjudicator and actress. She has performed and taught all over the world, including the USA, Europe, the Caribbean and the Middle East. Anjelica is also the face of ZoomerMedia's ONE Get Fit TV, where she has her own show "Anjelica's Dance Workout." Scannura has learned to master many dance disciplines including Middle-Eastern, Irish, Ballet and Bellydance. Scannura has successfully produced critically acclaimed full length productions receiving a Dora Nomination in 2015, and the Paula Citron Fresh Blood Award for outstanding emerging Canadian choreographer. Watch out for Anjelica in the upcoming feature film "Little Italy," starring Hayden Christensen and Emma Roberts. You can also catch her doing live Stand-Up comedy at some of the best Comedy Clubs in Ontario.



(MODERATOR) **Kristina Lemieux** is an accomplished arts administrator with more than 18 years of experience, and contemporary dancer. Her passion for the arts has driven collaboration, creation and innovation in the Vancouver arts scene for the last decade. A recent transplant to Toronto, Kristina is the Executive Director of Generator.

Over the past decade, she has worked with many of the Vancouver's art organizations: Arts Umbrella, New Works, Out On Screen (Queer Film Festival), Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration, Playwrights Theatre Centre, Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists/West Chapter (CADA/West), Tara Cheyenne Performance, Theatre Replacement, Progress Lab 1422 (a project of Vancouver Creative Space Society), Vancouver International Dance Festival (VIDF) and Vancouver Art Gallery.

Putting It All Together



Amy Bowring is currently the Director of Research at Dance Collection Danse, where she first worked as a summer student in 1993 and has been on staff since 1998. Amy manages DCD's collection and, as a subject specialist on Canadian dance, she can help visitors use DCD's extensive collection. Amy has also curated several online exhibits as well as DCD's first major exhibition, *Dancing Through Time: Toronto's Dance History, 1900-1980*. Amy continues her work as a copy editor for *The Dance Current* and she is the founder of the Society for Canadian Dance Studies, Canada's advocacy group in support of dance research. Amy's writings appear in *The Dance Current*, *Dance Chronicle*, *Estivale 2000 Proceedings: Canadian Dancing Bodies Then and Now*, *Canadian Dance: Visions and Stories*, *Right to Dance: Dancing for Rights* and DCD's latest publication, *Renegade Bodies: Canadian Dance in the 1970s*.